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ARAB TIMES

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Egypt's return to Arab League imminent

TUNIS, Jan 1, (Reuters): The Arab League said yesterday the return of Egypt to the Arab fold was imminent, giving new hope to Arabs at the start of the new year.

The League's Secretary-General, Cheddi Klibi, said the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, progress on the Palestinian question and rapprochement between North African states were other reasons for optimism.

"New avenues of hope now lie open before our nation... with the imminent return of Egypt into the fold and her resumption of her great mission within the Arab family," he said in a New Year message to Arabs.

All but three Arab countries — Lebanon, Libya and Syria — have resumed relations with Cairo, broken when it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Arab diplomats say Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak may be invited to the next Arab League summit, although in theory Arab leaders should first meet and agree to readmit Egypt.

Iranian claim

NICOSIA, Jan 1, (Reuters): Iran's Navy commander reiterated today that his country claimed the right to inspect ships in the Gulf, despite the ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

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Weather

Cloudy weather with light to moderate south-easterly wind and a chance for some rain later.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 7:00 am, 7:00 pm
Low water: 1:00 pm
Sunset: 6:43 pm
Sunrise: 5:01 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Abu Dhabi: 14°C 57°F
Ajlaka: 13°C 55°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Abu Dhabi: 9°C 47°F
Ajlaka: 10°C 50°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Abu Dhabi: 13°C 55°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
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Abu Dhabi: 62 per cent
Ajlaka: 63 per cent

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Relations between the traditionally hostile countries improving Pakistan, India sign nuclear non-aggression agreement

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1, (Agencies): Pakistan and India have signed a pact not to attack each other's nuclear facilities and the young prime ministers of the traditionally hostile countries said they were now on the path to peaceful relations.

"An extremely important and significant step has been taken today to improve relations between India and Pakistan," Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, 35, yesterday told a joint news conference with Rajiv Gandhi of India.

"We hope this visit will help normalise the situation between our two countries," said Rajiv, 44, on the first working visit to Pakistan by an Indian prime minister for 28 years.

Endeavour

The nuclear non-aggression pact was the first agreement in 16 years between the two countries, which have fought three wars since becoming independent of Britain in 1947 and whose relations have been, at best, frosty.

"I think that in both our countries there is a groundswell for peace and it is the endeavour of both democratically-elected governments of India and Pakistan to work for defused tensions," said Benazir.

The last agreement between the two countries was signed in the Indian hill town of Simla in 1972 by Rajiv's mother Indira and Benazir's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, both then prime ministers of their countries.

The accord was meant to plot a path for improved relations after India intervened to help East Pakistan fight for its independence of Pakistan and become

Bangladesh. Instead, mutual suspicion continued and deepened on India's side during the 11 years of rule in Pakistan by military President Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, which ended when he was killed in a mysterious air crash in August.

Attend

Benazir became prime minister on Dec 2 after her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) won the most seats in a general election and Indian officials said they saw an opening for better dealings with an elected government in Islamabad.

Rajiv came to Islamabad to attend a summit of South Asian leaders, but Benazir held out hope of an exchange of visits in 1989.

Each prime minister had invited the other to pay an official visit. "I am hopeful that 1989 will see more exchanges between the two countries," she said.

The accord, and two others — one on taxation and one to promote information, cultural, educational and art exchanges and joint archaeological explorations, were signed by foreign secretaries in the presence of the two leaders.

The cultural and taxation agreements were drafted a year ago. Rajiv reached a verbal agreement with Zia in 1985 that the two countries would not attack each other's nuclear facilities, but the understanding was never formalised.

Rajiv said serious problems still remained, among them Pakistan's nuclear programme which is widely believed capable

of producing an atomic bomb. A dispute over the Siachen glacier, at 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) up in the Himalayas the world's highest battlefield, has frequently erupted into shooting.

Indian charges, denied by Islamabad, that the Pakistan Army helps Sikh separatists fight their war in India's Punjab, were also a serious difficulty to be overcome. There was also the dispute over divided Kashmir, cause of two of the wars, said Rajiv.

He said these problems had been discussed between the two leaders, but they had decided to leave efforts to find solutions to lower level officials.

Nevertheless, the signature of the nuclear accord was a major breakthrough, as the two countries acknowledged in the preface to the text.

It said they were "reaffirming their commitment to durable peace and the development of friendly and harmonious bilateral relations."

Measures

It said the two were signing the accord "conscious of the role of confidence-building measures in promoting such bilateral relations based on mutual trust and goodwill."

"The momentum for peace has begun," said Benazir at the news conference.

"Through its process of confidence-building measures we will step by step move towards the more intractable issues between us by removing the less intractable ones first."

"For a very long period, the (Continued on Page 2)



Benazir (left) and Rajiv have established a good rapport. (Reuters wirephoto)

India to withdraw some troops from Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 1, (Reuters): India will withdraw two battalions of troops from Sri Lanka in the next few days at the request of the island's President-elect Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Indian high commission said today.

High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit said the number of soldiers withdrawn would be between 2,000 and 3,000.

There are more than 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka policing an Indo-Sri Lankan pact aimed at ending a Tamil rebellion in the north.

Premadasa will be sworn in as President tomorrow at a Buddhist temple in the central city of Kandy.

Indian troops started arriving in Sri Lanka in July 1987, hours after President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the controversial pact.

The agreement, criticised by the opposition as a sell-out to India, called on Tamil separatist guerrillas to lay down their arms in return for limited autonomy for minority Tamils living in the north and east.

While several rebel groups accepted the pact, it was rejected by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Dixit said Premadasa had told him on Dec 21, two days after the presidential election, that "the government of India should consider making a public announcement, before he assumes charge on Jan 2, about the withdrawal of Indian troops in a phased manner depending on the situation on the ground."

Dixit said the suggestion for a phased withdrawal and other matters regarding the pact were discussed by Jayewardene and Rajiv yesterday during their visit to Islamabad for the South Asian leaders' meeting.

Following these discussions India had decided to make the announcement today about the withdrawal simultaneously in Colombo and New Delhi.

The statement said that with the setting up recently of a semi-autonomous provincial council in the North and East and the devolution of powers to the council some troops had been withdrawn since the end of November.

Fatah forms popular army in occupied areas

BAGHDAD, Jan 1, (Reuters): The PLO's mainstream Fatah movement has formed a Palestinian "popular army" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestinian spokesman said today.

He said the popular army consisted of thousands of youths under orders from Force 17, the security force of Fatah leader Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO.

"The popular army is not a substitute for the unified movement of the Palestinian uprising but is another method of struggle... of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation," the spokesman said.

The unified movement is the underground leadership of the year-old revolt against Israeli rule of the occupied territories.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, read from a statement which he said was distributed by Fatah in Gaza today, the 24th anniversary of the group's first military operation against Israel.

"The Popular Army had been assigned to safeguard the homeland, security and order, establish justice and law and embody the power of the people," the statement said.

Arafat said in a message broadcast by Voice of Palestine Radio yesterday that the popular army and other fighters were imposing the will of the Palesti-

an masses despite Israeli military forces.

Israel expelled 13 accused leaders of the Palestinian uprising from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today in a gesture of defiance on Fatah anniversary.

Security sources said the expulsions, which seemed likely to anger the United States, Israel's closest ally, were timed to coincide with the Fatah anniversary.

Strength

Israeli troops clamped the Gaza Strip under round-the-clock curfew as part of a big show of strength to prevent violence. Three Arabs were wounded in isolated clashes in the West Bank.

The expulsions took place as massive Israeli troop reinforcements were sent to the occupied territories to prevent anticipated outbreaks of violence on Fatah Day.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said one Arab youth was seriously wounded in Tulkerem and two were injured in Ramallah when troops opened fire on rock-throwing protesters.

Hospital officials said 17-year-old Marwan Al Madani was in critical condition after being hit in the head by a plastic bullet in Tulkerem.

Three Arabs died of gunshot in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

Bomb threat over Arafat visit

STOCKHOLM, Jan 1, (Reuters): Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) said yesterday it had received a threat to blow up one of its planes on an internal flight following the visit to Sweden earlier this month by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The threat, contained in a letter sent to a Swedish newspaper, read: "Within three weeks an SAS internal flight will be blown up because of Arafat's visit to Sweden."

"We cannot reveal what security measures have been taken, but it is certainly safe to fly," said SAS spokesman John Herbert.

Khmeini curtails top council's powers

NICOSIA, Jan 1, (Reuters): Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khmeini, told a top government body yesterday to relinquish some of its powers following complaints from a group of parliamentarians.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Khmeini ordered the High Council of Expediency to give up the decree-making powers it wielded in the last months of the war with Iraq.

Khmeini, who set up the council in February, said it should revert to its original role — settling disputes between Parliament and the Council of Guardians, a panel of clergyman empowered to block laws they consider un-Islamic.

"...No problem is (now) so

urgent as to be debated directly in that council without being debated in the Majlis (Parliament) and being supervised by the Council of Guardians," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

The 13-member High Council of Expediency was founded to stop ideological arguments about the limits of government power from blocking important legislation. It was also authorised to issue decrees on urgent matters.

But some parliamentarians complained to Khmeini last month that it was usurping their role and was unconstitutional.

President Ali Khamenei, who chairs the council, argued that the decree-making powers were

not unconstitutional, IRNA said. He backs a private-sector lobby which favours a limited government role in the Islamic republic.

The agency said Khmeini ruled that laws already passed by the council, including one ordering tougher penalties for drug-traffickers, should remain in force.

"After that, it should only act in cases where there is a difference between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians," he said in his statement.

He also urged the Council of Guardians to be more broad-minded in vetting legislation so that the high council would not have to intervene, IRNA said.

People around the world usher in 1989

NEW YORK, Jan 1, (Agencies): The prospect of warmer super-power relations heralded the new year today and revellers gathered in places such as London's Trafalgar Square, Tokyo stadium and New York City's neon-lit Times Square, while earthquake victims in Armenia received gifts from around the world.

As a reminder of persisting violent strife, Lebanon ushered in the new year to the sound of exploding shells and machine-gun fire.

And Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres announced an austerity programme designed to lower inflation and revive an economy depressed in part by a year-long Palestinian uprising.

In the Vatican, Pope John Paul II marked the Roman Catholic church's World Day of Peace and prayed that 1989 would be a year of justice, solidarity and greater respect for the rights of ethnic minorities.

Harmonious

"Respect towards them (minority groups) should be considered the touchstone of harmonious human society and an index of the civil maturity reached by a country," the Pontiff said during a solemn sung mass in St Peter's Basilica.

Government troops and communist rebels in the Philippines observed a truce but 18 people were killed and 2,000 injured in firecracker blasts, stabbings and shootings during New Year revelry, officials said.

Swapping New Year messages, President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev praised closer ties between Moscow and Washington and hoped relations would improve even more.

Reagan said in a videotaped message yesterday that he and Gorbachev had "advanced our mutual understanding on the vital issues of human rights, arms reductions, regional problems and bilateral relations."

He added: "Important differences remain between our two countries and will continue for years to come but I am confident that we have been witness in 1988 to progress that — if we are careful and diligent — can continue for years to come."

Gorbachev, in his message, said superpower relations were now "more dynamic and more humane. We have become closer, and we have come to know each other better."

"Americans seem to be rediscovering the Soviet Union — and

we are rediscovering America. Fears and suspicion are gradually giving way to trust and feelings of mutual liking."

Victims of the earthquake in the Soviet Republic of Armenia received toys, jam, fruit, sweets and clothes as New Year's gifts from around the world, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported.

Gorbachev, in a televised New Year's speech to the Soviet people, called the earthquake "our common misfortune" and promised the devastated areas will be rebuilt. He also said his programme of economic and political "perestroika" or reform, is not moving quickly enough, but also said not to expect "manna from heaven."

In Japan, as thousands thronged to shrines to usher in the New Year, thousands of teenagers welcomed 1989 by singing and dancing to the music of US rock bands at a concert in downtown Tokyo yesterday.

Countdown

About 51,000 young Japanese people packed the Big Egg stadium for the seven-hour show featuring Bon Jovi, Britany Fox, Kingdom Come and Ratt.

Thousands packed Times Square for the traditional countdown as a 600-pound (272-kilogram) wrought-iron ball descended a pole at Times Square to mark the new year.

In the southern suburbs of Beirut, rival fighters from the Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal militiamen clashed in a fresh flare-up of civil strife that has paralysed the country.

Civilians feared the fighting would escalate and were trapped indoors in the area where some of the 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon are thought to be held.

As Big Ben struck midnight, an estimated 100,000 revellers jammed London's Trafalgar Square today to ring in 1989, police said.

Scotland Yard said the turnout was the largest since violent new year revels six years ago, when two women were killed in a surging crowd in the central London Square, the traditional focal point of celebrations in the capital.

Police arrested 88 people for various public order offences, mainly for drunken and disorderly behaviour, a spokeswoman said.

The London Ambulance Service said 15 people were hospitalised, but none of them was reported seriously hurt.

Arafat opens Palestinian embassy in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Jan 1, (Reuters): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat opened a Palestinian embassy in Saudi Arabia today amid hundreds of flag-waving fellow countrymen.

Arafat raised the Palestinian flag over the building, a gift from the Saudi government, amid tight security in a ceremony attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The 20 million riyal (\$5.3 million) premises are located just outside Riyadh's diplomatic quarter.

Arafat later toured the embassy and adjoining ambassador's residence.

Upgrade

Saudi Arabia said last week it would upgrade the PLO's representative office following the proclamation of an independent state in November by the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The Foreign Ministry said PLO representative Rafiq Al Natsha would be the ambas-

sador. More than 70 countries recognise the new state and Algeria and Iraq have already received ambassadors.

Kuwait will also upgrade the status of the PLO office in the country to embassy level this week, a Kuwaiti daily said yesterday.

Arafat said yesterday that Washington's decision to talk to the PLO had removed the crucial obstacle to an international Middle East peace conference.

But he vowed that the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories would continue until the occupation was ended and a free and independent Palestinian state established with Jerusalem as its capital.

DAY BY DAY

PEOPLE who go camping out in the desert are supposed to go to the actual desert, not just within the periphery of motorways.

This isn't the desert. It is simply a polluted area that is becoming dirtier whilst the government sits and watches.

For camping purposes, special sites, such as that in Wafra, should be prepared in order to feel truly outside the city.

What are the aims of those who camp near the motorways? On observation, they look like a group of refugees.

This is certainly not the way to enjoy camping in the desert.

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Cold war will end if Gorbachev succeeds, says Thatcher

LONDON, Jan 1. (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today that the cold war would end if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev succeeded in carrying out his reforms.

"Gorbachev is a person of great vision and boldness and courage. If he gets through with his reforms the world is a safer place. If he gets through with his reforms the cold war is at an end. The cold war is very much less cold," she said in an interview with the independent television channel TV-AM.

Gorbachev cancelled a visit to London last month because of the earthquake in Armenia, which officials estimate killed 25,000 people.

Expressing her admiration for the Soviet leader, Thatcher said she believed Gorbachev would pursue his reforms to the end.

Asked by interviewer David Frost if she trusted Gorbachev, she replied: "Every single thing he has undertaken to me to do he has done. And I am satisfied that if he undertakes to do something he will do it to the best of his ability."

Gorbachev, she added, would never give up. "I believe that he will get there. It is in the interest of the whole world that he does."

Thatcher said the boundaries of Europe had not changed. "You are still NATO against the Warsaw Pact." But, she added, East-West relations had improved to a degree that the

world was moving to be a safer place.

"This is because the West has staunchly stood up for freedom and has been prepared to defend it always and has pursued its passion for freedom and justice in what one would call the battle of ideas," Thatcher said.

"That battle of ideas has been taken to the Soviet Union," she added.

The Soviet people realised that they could not have a high standard of living without more liberty and they could not have freedom in a socialist-Marxist state, Thatcher said.

Socialism was not dead although "they are trying to kill it off in the Soviet Union."

On her relationship with President Reagan, Thatcher spoke of her admiration for the man known as the "great communicator."

She told of how she sat beside Reagan at the presidential retreat at Camp David and watched him prepare and read his radio broadcasts to the nation, describing his ability to time and pace his speech to fit into the five-minute slot as fantastic.

Reagan's presidency had been remarkable, Thatcher added. "He has given America back its confidence."

Thatcher said the "special relationship" with Washington would continue after George Bush, whom she described as a man of uniquely wide experience, took over the presidency.

US reportedly approached PLO for help

Arafat vows to hunt down Pan Am bombers

LONDON, Jan 1. (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat has vowed to help track down the bomber of Pan American Flight 103 that crashed in Scotland just before Christmas, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper of London reported today.

An unidentified US official told the Telegraph that Arafat would conduct his own investigation into the Palestinian splinter groups suspected of planting the bomb that killed 270 people — 11 on the ground and all 259 aboard — when the jumbo jet crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec 21.

Arafat had also agreed to closely co-operate with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and other American intelligence agencies, the Telegraph said.

Another London newspaper, the Sunday Express, reported that the PLO had sent a message to President Reagan from its base in Tunis, pledging "a traitor's death" if they find the bomber of Flight 103.

The Sunday Express said Arafat has vowed to dispatch a hit squad to hunt down the leader of a Palestinian faction who may have ordered the attack.

In Kuwait, the Al Seyassah newspaper reported yesterday that the PLO is considering a US request for help to track down the terrorists who bombed the Pan Am airliner.

Quoting an unidentified Palestinian source, the paper said the US request was addressed to Arafat during talks "between the two sides in an Arab capital over the past two days." It did not elaborate.

The source said the Americans asked help "in providing the investigation committee with information that may lead to uncovering those responsible" for the Pan Am disaster.

He was quoted as saying the US request came in response to a PLO memorandum addressed to the US administration, urging it to consider the possible involvement of Israel's secret service, Mossad, in the bombing to sabotage a crucial US-PLO dialogue that began in mid-December.

The Palestinian source said that the PLO offered to extend all assistance possible in that respect.

Speculation was still continuing in the Sunday newspapers in London about which Middle East group was responsible for Britain's worst aviation disaster. Police and FBI officials insist it will take some time to establish who was responsible and that, despite the speculation of the past 12 days, they are keeping open their options.

If one of the Palestinian disident groups are proven responsible, it would be costly to Arafat's peace overtures toward Israel, because it would starkly demonstrate his lack of control over the Palestinian cause.

Investigation

Sources close to the investigation in London discounted reports that they had identified a 20-year-old Lebanese student, Khalid Jaafar, who was killed along with the 258 other people on board, as the unwitting carrier of the bomb. Jaafar was on his way to visit his father in Detroit.

The Sunday Times reported that its own investigation of security at Frankfurt, where the flight originated, and at Heathrow airport, where the jet had departed for New York, revealed flaws that stacked the odds heavily in favour of the terrorists.

The newspaper said at Frankfurt airport their inquiries showed that despite the high state of alert, the unidentified terrorists stood a better than 60 per cent chance of beating the system.

At Heathrow, the odds were even higher because security procedures were fundamentally flawed, the Sunday Times said.

Of the 70 bags that were loaded on board the Pan Am

Boeing 727 at Frankfurt, fewer than 30 were actually searched, the Times said.

When those bags, possibly containing the suitcase bomb, were loaded on the 747 at Heathrow, the regulations procedure to ensure no transit passengers left the airport, leaving baggage on the flight, was either ignored or not properly conducted.

Security

The Sunday Times report also said that Heathrow security relied too heavily on passengers' nationality.

As a result, a determined terrorist travelling on a false US passport could have successfully negotiated the airport defences. American passport holders were allowed to pass their bags through unchecked unless they aroused suspicion, the newspaper said.

The West German government says there is no evidence to back up news reports that a bomb was smuggled onto a Pan Am jetliner in Frankfurt before the flight exploded in the air over Scotland.

"There is no indication that the explosives could have been put on board at Frankfurt airport," said West German Interior Ministry spokesman Michael A. Butz.

Butz was responding to British newspaper reports yesterday that investigators believe the bomb that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 was smuggled onto the flight in Frankfurt, possibly by a Lebanese passenger duped into carrying it.

Lawsuit

The father of one of the victims, has filed a \$50 million lawsuit against the US airline, saying lax security led to his son's death, his lawyer said yesterday.

Cincinnati-based lawyer Stanley Chesley said the suit was filed in Detroit on Thursday on behalf of petrol station owner Nazir Jaafar, whose 20-year-old son Khalid was killed in the crash of Flight 103 last week.



A police officer with a dog walks past the Pan Am check-in counter at London's Heathrow airport. Security at Heathrow has been stepped up following the downing of the Pan Am jet over Scotland. (Reuters wirephoto)

In London, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today no revenge should be taken for the bombing of the Pan American airliner.

"I do not think an eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth is ever valid. I can understand the anger. We feel the anger very deeply," Thatcher said in an interview on the independent television channel TV-AM.

Pakistan, India sign nuclear...

(Continued from Page 1)

relations between India and Pakistan were flawed," said Benazir. "There was an air of mutual suspicion, and it was this that was an obstacle between the two countries."

Rajiv said after returning to New Delhi: "I had very good talks with (Pakistani) Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto — very long talks."

Track

"I felt that there is definitely a mood on both sides to try and get things back on track and normalise the situation between our two countries."

The two leaders had eight hours of talks during the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) meeting which ended in the Pakistani capital yesterday.

Rajiv made a clear comparison between Benazir and Zia. "I can also say with confidence that we believe PPP (Benazir's Pakistan People's Party) policies will be much better than the earlier policies on the more difficult areas," he said.

Rajiv said India was prepared to cut its military expenditure if there were progress on issues including Kashmir and Punjab. India has long claimed that Pakistan arms and harbours Sikh separatist guerrillas fighting in Punjab.

Replying to a question on the issue, Rajiv stated that Benazir "said very clearly that they (Pakistan) are not for interfering in our internal affairs — and I believe she means it."

The leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka vowed to fight drug abuse and drug trafficking, and urged that less money be spent on weapons and more on development.

In the "Islamabad declaration," the SAARC leaders "expressed grave concern" over growing drug abuse and trafficking, particularly the serious effects it had on youth.

Eradicate

"They recognised the need for urgent and effective measures to eradicate this evil," said the 13-page document presented to the closing session of the group's fourth annual summit.

The declaration said 1989 would be the "SAARC year for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking."

The declaration called for the introduction of more effective laws to fight drugs and raised the possibility of a regional convention for drug control.

The leaders said a rise in military spending was a major constraint on world development and urged "that resources saved through disarmament measures should be diverted in particular to developing countries for development."

They vowed to improve the lives of the poor by the year 2000.

US population grows by about 2.3 million

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (Reuters): The population of the United States was 246.9 million as the new year began, almost 2.3 million higher than a year ago, the US Census Bureau said today.

Demographers at the federal agency said the population had grown by about nine per cent over the 1980 census count of 226,545,805 people.

The bureau based its 1988 figure on an estimated 3.9 million births, 2.2 million deaths and a net migration of 606,000.

It estimated that both births and deaths would continue at about the same level this year with the population increasing by 2.2 million people.

Journalist jailed by Zia to head APP

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1. (Reuters): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today named a journalist jailed under the former military regime to head Pakistan's state news agency.

Aslam Sheikh was appointed director-general of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). He replaces Farooq Nisar, who held the post for four and a half years as a nominee of late President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Mohammad Afzal Khan, a senior APP journalist, was named the news agency's second in command, a government statement said.

Sheikh and Afzal Khan are leading members of Pakistan's Federal Union of Journalists. Both men were jailed by Zia's martial law government during a union campaign for press freedom.

4 teenagers killed in explosion

BETHESDA, Maryland, Jan 1. (AP): Four teenagers were killed yesterday in a garage explosion at the home of a Brazilian embassy employee, police said.

Two of the victims were killed instantly by the blast, while the third person died a short time after being rushed to a local hospital, Montgomery county police Sgt Harry Geehreng said. The fourth teen-ager died last evening.

The Washington Post reported in today's editions that three of the young men were described as close friends and said the four were science-oriented students who attended high school in Bethesda.

The newspaper identified the victims as Samir Gafsi, Dov Fischman and Bruno Perrone, all first-year students in college whose ages weren't available, and Gustavo Machado, 15, the son of a Brazilian attaché.

Interest

Sharmi Banik, described as Gafsi's girlfriend by the newspaper, said he had shown a recent interest in explosives.

"He was telling me about the explosion on the Pan Am jet," Banik told the Post, referring to the Dec 21 explosion of Flight 103 over a Scottish village that killed all 259 people aboard. She said Gafsi told her and his friends "could do better than that."

Geehreng said the explosion occurred at the Bethesda home of Vera Machado. He said Ms. Machado and her husband, Richard, were sleeping inside the home and were not injured.

Caused

A security guard who answered the telephone at the Brazilian embassy in Washington said Ms. Machado was a consular attaché. The guard, who refused to give his name, said he did not know her duties.

Geehreng said the explosion apparently was caused by some type of bomb, but he said investigators have concluded that the blast was not caused by terrorists.

Baby with rare disorder gets new liver

MADISON, Wisconsin, Jan 1. (AP): A 14-month-old Florida boy who suffered from a rare disorder received a liver and small intestine yesterday during experimental surgery that hospital officials said was successful.

Calvin Oliveira was listed in critical but stable condition at the university of Wisconsin hospital and clinics.

Calvin has a condition known as short bowel syndrome, which left only five per cent of his small



Reyhan (left) at a news conference in Geneva after he was freed. (Reuters wirephoto)

Police free kidnapped Turkish businessman

GENEVA, Jan 1. (Reuters): Armed police stormed a Geneva apartment yesterday and freed a Turkish businessman held hostage for four days by Turks demanding a five million Swiss franc (\$3.3 million) ransom, police said.

Officers forced a locked door and found Mehmet Reyhan in one room, guarded by two Turks sitting in another room and armed only with knives.

Reyhan, 28, told a news conference hours after his release that two Turks with pistols seized him on a Geneva street on Tuesday evening.

Police spokesman Marcel Vaudroz said eyewitnesses had told police they had seen four men getting out of a car on Thursday, one obviously being held against his will. Police had found the apartment after tracing the car.

Ransom

Vaudroz said that early on Wednesday morning Reyhan had telephoned his twin brother Ali in Istanbul and told him he had been kidnapped by members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which seeks Kurdish autonomy from Turkey.

He called Ali the next day to say his kidnappers were demand-

ing the ransom from their father. Ugur Reyhan, a columnist with a right-wing newspaper in Turkey, Vaudroz said police were holding the two men found in the apartment where Reyhan was found and a third who was arrested later in the city. None had been charged.

Vaudroz would not say if the three were Kurds. A communiqué issued on Friday by the European section of the PKK denied responsibility for the kidnapping, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment in Switzerland.

The three men had been living in Geneva for several years and were seeking political asylum, he said.

Reyhan, who appeared at the news conference with his father and brother who flew to Geneva to deal with case, said he had feared for his life on several occasions during his captivity but had for the most part been well-treated.

Poachers killed

HARARE, Jan 1. (Reuters): Game wardens guarding Zimbabwe's dwindling black rhino population killed three poachers in a shoot-out in the Zambezi valley yesterday, police said.

Palme murder suspect remanded for 14 more days

STOCKHOLM, Jan 1. (Reuters): A Swedish court remanded a former mental patient in custody for a further two weeks yesterday on suspicion of having murdered prime minister Olof Palme nearly three years ago.

The 41-year-old suspect, a convicted killer with a history of violent crime, first appeared in court two weeks ago when he was remanded to give the prosecution time to prepare its case.

The Stockholm district court yesterday ordered that the man be further detained after hearing new evidence against him.

"We hope to have our charges ready by Jan 13," chief prosecutor Anders Helin said afterwards.

The half-hour private hearing was delayed because the suspect, who cannot be named under Swedish law, refused to leave his prison cell and attend the court.

Denies

"Among other reasons, he did not want to be subjected to the media again," his lawyer Arne Liljero said.

Liljero says his client denies murdering Palme, who was gunned down at point blank range as he walked home from the cinema with his wife Lisbet.

"There is information which speaks both for and against my client, but I would not be surprised if the case comes to trial," Liljero told reporters after the hearing.

The prosecution has until Jan 13 to press formal charges against the suspect, in which case a trial date must be set, or apply for another 14-day remand extension.

An unlimited number of extensions can be authorised by the court if the prosecution can prove sufficient grounds.

Reagan subpoenaed to testify at North trial

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (AP): US President Reagan and President-elect George Bush have been subpoenaed as defence witnesses in the trial of retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North in the Iran-Contra affair.

The action involving a sitting President and his successor was unprecedented in US history, government officials said.

"We did receive it," Justice Department spokesman Loye Miller said of the written legal order directing Bush and Reagan to appear in court and give testimony. "There's one for the President and one for the vice president. We received it at mid-afternoon." The subpoenas were received by Robert Ross, the executive assistant to US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Miller said.

Significant

A statement released by the White House press office in Palm Springs, California, where Reagan is on vacation, said, "the Justice Department has received a subpoena seeking the President's testimony at the criminal trial of Oliver North. The subpoena also seeks the discovery of certain personal records of the President. The subpoena was not an anticipated development."

"It raises significant legal and constitutional questions which are currently being reviewed by the Department of Justice and counsel to the President," the statement said. "It would be unprecedented for a President to appear as a witness at a criminal trial and it is premature to speculate on the final decision that will ultimately be taken, but historical precedent suggests any relevant information could be provided through written questions and answers."

Roman Popadiuk, a White House spokesman, said Reagan had known since Wednesday that he was likely to be subpoenaed. White House Chief of Staff Kenneth Duberstein told Reagan on Friday morning that the subpoena would be delivered during the afternoon, Popadiuk said.

Bush aides confirmed that the President-elect had received a subpoena on Friday.

Bush Press Secretary Sheila Tate said Bush was going ahead with his weekend relaxation at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, and planned no meetings to discuss the trial matter.

Fire kills 11

SANTIAGO, Jan 1. (AP): A New Year's night fire at a detention centre for juveniles, apparently started during a jailbreak, left 11 inmates dead and 5 wounded, police reported.

More than 100 feared dead in Rio shipwreck

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 1. (Reuters): Over 100 people were believed to have died when a passenger boat capsized off Copacabana beach just after midnight, a Brazilian Coast Guard spokesman said today.

He said the fully-laden boat had been returning from a trip to watch New Year celebrations on the beach when it sank.

There were at least 130 people aboard when it capsized. Only 20 had been rescued and 42 bodies had already been brought ashore, the spokesman said.

Rescue workers including divers were searching for more survivors. But asked about the chances of finding any, the spokesman said: "There's not much possibility."

A radio operator for the Rio Yacht Club helping in the rescue effort said there may have been many more than 130 on board the boat. The Coast Guard spokesman said there were no exact numbers yet.

Hundreds of boats had

moored in Rio's Copacabana bay just before midnight yesterday to watch the New Year celebrations, which include a spectacular fireworks display.

Boats

In the traditional celebrations thousands of Brazilians on the beach and in the boats throw flowers and other offerings into the sea to bring good luck in the New Year.

People on the beach were unaware of the accident, which happened close to the sugar loaf mountain soon after midnight.

Local television stations interrupted their normal programmes this morning to broadcast interviews with survivors of the accident.

One woman, identified as Eliane Maciel, said there was chaos on the boat as it turned over and debris and bodies fell around her.

"I was hit on the back of the neck by a piece of metal ... but I got out," she said.

907 honoured by the Queen

Brittan knighted

LONDON, Jan 1. (AP): From a beekeeper and a mailman to a Rothschild and three Olympic gold medalists, the humble and the powerful were rewarded yesterday for good works and political loyalty in that grand old British tradition, the Queen's New Year honours list.

Sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi is knighted, as is Leon Brittan, the former Trade and Industry secretary who resigned in controversy in 1986. Michael Holroyd, biographer of George Bernard Shaw, becomes a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), as do actor Ian Richardson and Christopher Hogwood, director of the Academy of Ancient Music.

Queen Elizabeth II bestowed 907 titles and medals — most of them to people selected by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government for the twice-yearly expression of gratitude. They will be joined in June by hundreds more from the Queen's birthday list.

Treasured

Although critics say the ancient honours tradition has been tarnished by political patronage, a barony, a knighthood or a British empire medal is still a glittering prize to be treasured for life and remembered with pride by one's descendants.

Barons and baronesses are addressed as lords and ladies and can sit in parliament's unelected House of Lords in the company of Britain's ancient aristocratic

families. Knights are addressed as Sir, and their female equivalents are Dames. An officer of the order of the British empire gets to add OBE after his or her name.

There is no cash reward but to many the rise in status is priceless. For the public at large, it is an occasion to reflect on heroes both sung and unsung, like Domingos Joseph Diogo Teodoro Pinto. The Northern Ireland doctor got an OBE for leading the medical team that treated casualties in an Irish Republican Army bombing that killed eight soldiers.

This power to pander to vanity prompts accusations — firmly denied — that prime ministers use the honours to repay political cronies and party fund donors.

Political loyalty is warmly rewarded each year. Brittan, awarded a knighthood, was a close cabinet ally of Mrs Thatcher before he resigned for approving the leak of a controversial letter during a government crisis. He is now one of Britain's two commissioners on the European Economic Community's administrative body.

The government, underlining Mrs Thatcher's new commitment to conservation, recommended honours for several guardians of the environment this year. The highest goes to Cambridge University chemistry professor Jack Lewis, who chaired a commission on environmental pollution. He becomes a life baron.



Medical personnel treat victims of firecracker blasts at a Manila hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bangladeshis flock to Iran for jobs

DHAKA, Jan 1. (Reuters): Abject poverty and widespread unemployment have forced up to 10,000 Bangladeshis to take up illegal residence in Iran, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said today.

"We have only 2,000 expatriate nationals working in Iran under legal permits but there are up to 10,000 others staying there illegally," he told a news conference.

Mahmud said Iran was considering a request he made during a recent visit to Tehran that the 10,000 be granted legal residence and work permits.

Mahmud paid a three-day visit to Tehran from Dec 20, before flying to the Pakistani capital of Islamabad for the fourth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

Bangladesh earned \$600 million from remittances from more than half a million expatriate workers during the fiscal year that ended last June.

Earthquake

LIMA, Jan 1. (UPI): An earthquake shook the capital of Lima today, alarming some residents but causing no damage or injuries, authorities said.

Seoul seeking public opinion about unity plan

S. Korea proposes confederation

SEOUL, Jan 1. (UPI): South Korea will propose a reunification plan that includes the creation of a confederation with North Korea and a neutral head of state, a news report said today.

The government denied that a confederation formula has been adopted. "Authorities are in the process of seeking a wide range of public opinions to formulate a new unification policy," a government spokesman said.

Another published report said government officials are studying a plan to build an industrial estate in the Demilitarised Zone dividing the communist North and pro-democratic South. Under the plan the rival Koreas could build joint-venture factories in the estate, it said.

The Korean peninsula is technically still in a state of war since fighting ended in 1953 between the North and South. The two sides have held periodic talks throughout the 1980s on reunification but negotiations have bogged down on various issues.

China takes away nude paintings

BEIJING, Jan 1. (Reuters): China removed five paintings from its first exhibition of nude art after angry models complained about their portraits being viewed by thousands of curious onlookers.

Two of the female models have threatened to sue organisers of the hugely popular show at the China art gallery, claiming their marriages and reputations are threatened, the China Daily said on Saturday.

The withdrawals followed a one-day strike by nude models at Beijing's top central Academy of Fine Arts who said artists had "betrayed" them by putting the paintings on show.

The paper quoted organisers as saying the five most contentious paintings would be removed and replaced.

"The academy had promised anonymity to the models since many Chinese people view it as dishonourable for young women to be nude models," the paper said.

Tickets for the two-week show are selling for two yuan (about \$0.30) each, ten times the usual admission charge to the gallery.

Thousands of Filipinos made homeless by fires

MANILA, Jan 1. (AP): Illegal fireworks injured 532 people and triggered six fires in Manila during New Year's revelry, leaving thousands of families homeless in the New Year, police and doctors said today.

Four people were stabbed to death in brawls in Cebu, (576 kilometres) southeast of Manila, hospital authorities reported.

Fire raged through a slum neighbourhood in Manila's Sta Mesa district, killing at least one person and destroying 3,000 makeshift houses, said arson investigator Edmar Espresion.

Hundreds of houses and apartments also were burned in five other fires in which no casualties were reported, he said.

"All of these fires were started by firecrackers that lit light materials of houses," Espresion said.

Also in Cebu, the nation's second-largest metropolis, at least 86 people were treated in government hospitals after firecrackers exploded in their hands.

In Bulacan province, north of Manila, 33 people were injured in frenzied revelry on New Year's eve, hospital authorities said.

"It's like a war zone here," said a government doctor, on condition of anonymity. "Fingers are

being amputated. People are wounded by stray bullets. They are still coming in, and our records are still in shambles from last night."

A check with doctors at nine government and private hospitals in the capital area showed 532 people were wounded last night.

The manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers are illegal in the Philippines. But the ban is lightly enforced in a nation people traditionally have exploded fireworks to usher in the New Year and celebrate other festivals.

Ten teen-agers were arrested yesterday after setting off firecrackers in streets, said Col. Leonardo Orig, operations chief of the capital command. They were later released to their parents, Orig said.

On Friday, US serviceman Sgt Michael Kaleda, 29, and a 10-year-old Filipino boy were killed when a homemade firecracker prematurely exploded in the American's house outside Clark Air Base. Four other Filipinos were wounded in the blast.

A clandestine firecracker factory in Bulacan province, centre of the country's fireworks industry, accidentally blew up its entire neighbourhood on Thursday, killing 11 people and injuring 20 others.

including the presence of 40,000 US troops in the South. Students and opposition parties have pressed President Roh Tae-Woo for a more concerted effort at reunification with the North.

The nationally circulated daily Hankook Ilbo said in a front-page story that the new unification formula will be offered in a declaration by President Roh Tae-Woo.

New republic
It will accommodate a large portion of North Korea's standing proposal for a confederal democratic Republic of Koryo, the newspaper said. Koryo is an old name of Korea.

The formula will propose a permanent body which will draft a unified constitution for the two Koreas, discuss all issues related to unification, and oversee political transition to a confederation to be based on the principle of local autonomy, Hankook Ilbo said.

Meanwhile, North Korean

leader Kim Il Sung today proposed that political and religious leaders from North and South Korea meet in Pyongyang "in the near future" to discuss reunification of the peninsula divided since 1945.

The official (North) Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Tokyo that Kim made the offer in his annual New Year's Day address. Kim said "We respectfully propose that a North-South political consultative meeting be held in Pyongyang in the near future with the participation of leadership-level people who can represent the will of various political parties and groupings and people of all walks of life in the North and the South."

The agency quoted Kim as saying the talks should be based on "the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and national unity which were agreed upon by both sides and recognised by the world."

Takeshita takes blame for cabinet resignations

TOKYO, Jan 1. (AP): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said today that he is to blame for the resignations of four of his cabinet ministers, two of them because of links to a political scandal during the last month.

He also said at an annual New Year's news conference that he hoped Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would come to Tokyo this year for the first visit to Japan ever by a top Soviet leader.

Takeshita's cabinet has taken a beating in recent weeks despite the Prime Minister's success last month in winning parliament's approval for comprehensive tax-reform legislation.

Justice Minister Takashi Hasegawa resigned on Friday—only three days after he was appointed in a cabinet shakeup—after it was revealed he had received political donations for years from a company involved in a stock-trading scandal.

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa stepped down in early December after repeatedly chan-

ging his explanation of a close aide's purchase of unlisted shares of a company's real-estate subsidiary at bargain prices.

The director of the National Land Agency stepped down in May after he created a controversy by claiming Japan was not responsible for World War II, and the chief of the Defence Agency resigned to take responsibility for a Navy submarine's collision with a fishing boat. Thirty people died in the crash.

"I am solely to blame for four ministers resigning," Takeshita said. "Somehow we have to regain the public's trust."

In foreign affairs, Takeshita pledged to keep US-Japanese relations at the centre of his foreign policy but said he would expand Japan's diplomacy toward the Soviet Union, Asia and the Pacific region.

He said he would focus attention on increasing Japan's contributions to world peace, cultural exchanges and economic assistance.

Mujahedeen reject ceasefire

Soviets observe Afghan truce

MOSCOW, Jan 1. (Reuters): Soviet troops will join Afghan government forces in observing a unilateral ceasefire from today in their war against Afghan Muslim guerrillas, the Soviet Foreign Ministry said.

The Pakistan-based rebels have dismissed the ceasefire as a ruse designed to ensure the survival of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul of President Najibullah.

Najibullah said on Friday he had ordered Afghan government forces to refrain from fighting from Sunday unless attacked. He gave the rebels until Jan 4 to respond.

Delay

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said: "The Soviet Union fully supports this peace move of the Afghan leadership and, for its part, declares that all units of Soviet forces that remain in Afghanistan will observe a ceasefire from the same date."

The Soviet Union, whose forces moved into Afghanistan in

December 1979, is committed under UN-sponsored accords signed in Geneva last April to withdrawing its troops by February.

Moscow has temporarily halted its withdrawal, charging the United States and Pakistan with violating the UN-sponsored accords by supplying the rebels with weapons. But US State Department officials say they expect the Kremlin to remove its remaining 50,000-60,000 soldiers by Feb 15.

"Life has convincingly shown that it is impossible to solve Afghan problems with weapons in hand," the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement said.

"The alignment of forces is such that a continuation of hostilities would lead only to more bloodshed and unjustified loss of life and would add to the hardships and sufferings of the entire Afghan people."

The statement repeated Moscow's willingness to halt arms supplies to the Afghan government from today if the United

States stopped delivering weapons to the guerrillas.

"If the goodwill does not meet a constructive response, it will be clear to the whole world who bears the full responsibility for the continuation of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan," it said.

Concern

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed concern over the slow pace of movement towards a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and urged an intra-Afghan dialogue aimed at setting up a "broad-based government."

In a statement issued through a spokesman, he expressed concern at the continuous suffering and plight of Afghans both inside and outside the country, with millions displaced and refugees.

"While welcoming the recent positive steps towards a promotion of a peaceful settlement, the secretary-general expresses also his concern at the slow pace of the developments in that direction," the statement said.

"Accordingly he appeals to all Afghans to spare no efforts and take the necessary steps towards an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government and the creation of the necessary conditions of peace and normalcy that would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homeland in safety and honour."

End

Perez de Cuellar said he hoped 1989 would see the end of the "long and tragic war in that country and that it will be a year of peace, reconstruction and rehabilitation."

Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah on Friday declared a unilateral ceasefire in the 10-year-old war against Muslim guerrillas starting on Jan 1, but this was not referred to in the secretary-general's statement.

The Pakistan-based rebels have vowed to fight on until all Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan and Najibullah's government is overthrown.

World's champion liar of 1988

BURLINGTON, Wisconsin, Jan 1. (UPI): It was a dry 1988 in wide areas of the United States but probably not as dry as the claim by Roy Griesbach of Appleton, Wis., whose fanciful comment on the drought won him the title of world's champion liar from the Burlington Liar's Club.

"The weather was so dry this past summer that the only water one could buy was dehydrated in 16 ounce packages," he said in his winning entry in the annual contest.

John Soeth, president of the Burlington Liar's Club which is celebrating its 60th year in 1989, said there were about 300 entries in the contest. Most were from Wisconsin but liars from as far away as Canada, Taiwan and England entered.

A lot of the lies were about the drought and Soeth quipped "I guess we can say we had a dry year (for lies). There are some honourable mentions: Steve Duitch wrote, 'my wife has such cold feet that when she takes off her shoes the furnace goes on and when she gets under the electric blanket, the street lights go dim.'"

Lowell Wolfe said, "During the severe drought in the summer of 1988, whenever I cleaned bluegills I held them under water when I scaled them, to keep the dust out of my eyes." "I was kicked off the Olympic prevaricating team because I lied about my qualifications," said David Watts.

Sherree Bykofsky, writing as if she were a man, wrote of a super-shopper which she said was herself — "last summer my wife spent so much money in the shops of Woodstock, New York that they have renamed the town out-of-stock."

Malaysia rejoins Security Council

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 1. (Reuters): Malaysia, which last served on the Security Council in 1965, becomes a member again on Jan 1 and its UN representative, Ambassador Razali Ismail, immediately takes over as president of the 15-nation body.

The presidency rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical order of the delegations and Malaysia succeeds Japan, which held the post during December.

Malaysia is one of five new council members elected by the General Assembly last October for two-year terms beginning on Jan 1. The others are Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia and Finland.

They replace Argentina, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Zambia whose terms expire at the end of 1988.

The other five non-permanent members, who remain on the council during 1989, are Algeria, Brazil, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

The five permanent members, each with the power of veto, are the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

Powerful laser

NEW YORK, Jan 1. (Reuters): The US Defence Department has decided to modify its most powerful laser so it can fire at old US satellites and its effectiveness as a space weapon can be tested, the New York Times reported today.

The White House would have to approve the tests, which could be conducted in 1989, it said.

The huge ground-based laser has been fired successfully to blow up stationary missiles and knock speeding target drones out of the sky.

Mahdi seeks resignation of President

Protest strikes end in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Jan 1. (Reuters): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi sought the resignation of the head of state as riot police were ordered to maintain guard on key buildings in Khartoum after a nationwide strike and days of unrest.

Swat Al Umma newspaper said Mahdi asked for the resignation of Supreme Council president and head of state Ahmed Ali Mirghani, a member of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which quit the government on Wednesday.

Hundreds of thousands of people went back to work in the capital on Saturday after striking in protest at price rises which the government rescinded on Thursday, three days after imposing them.

Telex and telephone lines

reopened after being cut by the strike. Khartoum International airport reopened on Friday night after a two-day closure.

Swat Al Umma, the official paper of Mahdi's Umma Party, said Mahdi asked for Mirghani's resignation in a letter to DUP leader Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani.

Parliament

Mahdi also wanted parliament to end its recess ahead of the scheduled date of Jan 16, the paper said.

The DUP quit the government in protest at the price hikes and at parliament's rejection last week of a DUP peace plan aimed at ending a five-year-old civil war in the south.

Police with machine-guns and teargas canisters on Saturday remained on guard outside the

cabinet's offices and other riot police were stationed at sensitive points elsewhere in the city.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets after the price rises were announced on Monday. Some also protested at the government's failure peacefully to end the rebellion by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south.

In Cairo, travellers arriving by air from Khartoum said on Saturday the city was returning to normal after days of chaos.

"It was a total civilian mutiny. They cut water and electricity, the airport was closed, no trains, no food, no anything," said Sultan Shafa'ee, a 60-year-old Egyptian.

In every place, every neighbourhood, there were demonstrations," he said.

Benazir's old links with cinema

KARACHI, Jan 1: Benazir Bhutto, the first woman prime minister of Pakistan, has had a number of indirect links with Pakistani cinema. For instance, her late father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the then minister for foreign affairs, had performed the opening ceremony on April 20, 1963 of Karachi's Bambino Cinema, which was then owned by Hakim Ali Zardari, who is now the father-in-law of Benazir.

Hakim Ali Zardari did not only own the Bambino but also the Scala Cinema and the site where Star Cinema is situated today. He also financed a Sindhi film 'Sorath' and was the owner of a film distribution concern Bambino Films. He was also a prominent leader of the film industry and chairman of the Pakistan Film Exhibitors' Association for several years.

Benazir's husband Asif Zardari used to live in a flat on the top of his father's Bambino Cinema and his car park was his playground.

Muzaffar Husain Rizvi is the current chairman of the Pakistan Film Producers' Association. Owais Muzaffar, son of PFFPA chief, and Asif Zardari grew up together like brothers and Muzaffar is now the PA of Benazir.

NFDC

The credit for establishing the National Film Development Corporation in 1974 goes to Benazir's father, who was then the prime minister of Pakistan.

There are many personalities who still have some connection with the Pakistani cinema and are in the newly formed federal and provincial cabinets and are

members of the National, Provincial Assemblies and the Senate.

For instance, senator Javed Jabbar is a prominent film producer who made Pakistan's first and only English feature film 'Beyond The Last Mountain' in 1974. Its Urdu version 'Musafir' was also an experimental film and was sent for a few international festivals. Jabbar was one of the notable PTV comedians (in English and Urdu languages). Benazir has appointed him as minister of state for information and broadcasting.

Qayam Ali Shah, whose family owns a couple of cinemas in Sindh, was made chief minister of Sindh. He used to be federal minister in the late Bhutto's cabinet.

The new attorney general of Pakistan Yahya Bakhtiar is the

61 militant students arrested in Assiut

ASSIUT, Egypt, Jan 1. (Reuters): Sixty-one Muslim militants were arrested after reports of attacks on students and murder threats against staff at Egypt's Assiut University, police sources said today.

Witnesses said heavily-armed riot police raided the campus, 380 km (240 miles) south of Cairo, where the sources said 13 students were detained on Thursday and 48 more militants on Saturday.

The police sources also said precautions were being taken throughout mainly Muslim Egypt to protect churches and mosques in case Muslim militants tried to create trouble during New Year celebrations.

Assiut University president Abdel Razzak Hassan told reporters students who caused unrest might be expelled. Police detained 55 militant students last week in Assiut, a centre of Islamic fundamentalism.

Akhtar El Yom newspaper said militants had attacked students with chains, jackknives, batons and whips in 16 assaults in the town in the past 40 days.

The paper quoted agriculture Professor Mohammed Abdel Salam as saying most students and members of the teaching staff had received threats of murder and kidnapping from militants.

"They have threatened to kidnap our children and said they would kill us... even the dean received similar threats," he was quoted as saying.

Muslim fundamentalists believe in strict Islamic sharia laws and say all Muslims must observe them.

The dean of Assiut's agriculture faculty, Farouk Khalil, quoted by Akhtar El Yom, said the government was too lenient on the militants and staff had asked the authorities for permission to carry guns for protection.



Benazir: links

father of popular TV artistes Karim Bakhtiar and Zeba Bakhtiar. His daughter-in-law Huma is a prominent PTV artist.

Chinese police storm 'African' guest house

BEIJING, Jan 1. (Reuters): Hundreds of Chinese police armed with electric poles and batons stormed a guest house where African students had barricaded themselves, forcing some of them back to their campuses in the city of Nanking.

African students contacted by telephone from Beijing today said that police beat some of the students before they were loaded on buses and taken away on Saturday.

"We didn't want to go. Some students were beaten," said an African who asked not to be further identified. "I walked out and I was not hit. Some of us had our hands up in the air."

Other students who had returned to their campuses said there were no reports of serious injuries but police appeared to single out eight or nine people alleged to be involved in a campus clash on Christmas Eve.

Students said that on Saturday afternoon about 300 police and plainclothes security men moved into guest houses near the east China city of Nanking where African and other foreign students had been since Monday.

The Africans had been brought there on Monday after violence flared on three Nanking

campuses where they had been studying.

"They divided us into small groups," said a student. "We were kept waiting outside while they told us about the law and our poor behaviour."

Five hours later they were put on buses. About 20 have returned to their universities but the whereabouts of more than 100 others was unclear.

A provincial government official said that some of the students were still at the guest house.

Liang Ruiji, head of Hebei University, had described the guest house as "an independent kingdom" where Africans had refused to let Chinese enter.

Japanese sculptor dies at 84

NEW YORK, Jan 1. (Reuters): Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese-American sculptor who pioneered the use of simple organic form and whose work ranged from pure stone sculptures to theatre sets, died of heart failure on Friday at the age of 84.

In 1985 Noguchi became the first living sculptor since Rodin to have a museum dedicated to his work. The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum in the borough of Queens contains some 250 sculptures, models, drawings and photos of his art work.

Noguchi, who was born in Los Angeles, went to Paris in the 1920s on a Guggenheim fellowship and studied with Constantin Brancusi. He proceeded to the Far East in the early 1930s he produced ink drawings and terra cotta portraits.

But it was upon his return to the United States that Noguchi began to explore what would become a lifelong passion — environmentally-integrated, socially-conscious contemporary sculpture that created calm amid urban trouble spots.

Noguchi became a pioneer in the use of simple organic form, exemplified by everything from his stone sculpture gardens to an Atlanta playground, one of many many he designed.

He created a notable garden for UNESCO in Paris in 1958, and his entrance for the Tokyo museum of modern art was completed in 1969.

In the 1960s, Noguchi's paper table lamps made him an important force in the increasingly popular area of Japanese paper sculpture and form.

Security heightened at Asian airports

MANILA, Jan 1. (AP): Asian airports have increased security following a warning that terrorists may try to hijack a commercial airliner in the region before Jan 10, officials said.

The heightened security also follows the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed at least 270 people.

Rolando Estabillo, a spokes-

man for Philippine Air Lines, said it received the information from Air India on Dec 21, the day of the Pan Am crash, and relayed the report to its offices worldwide.

The Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant said the warning urged security officials to watch for "portable radios" as a possible hiding place for explosives.

Air India and the Indian

government's civil aviation administration declined comment on the report. But airports in New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were placed on maximum alert.

Intelligence sources in New Delhi, speaking on condition of anonymity, said immigration officials had been alerted to check closely the passports of all travellers headed West.

Timing
26th: 7.30 pm
27th: 6.30 pm

Venue:
Granada Theatre,
Khartoum

Ticket:
1st class:
KD. 7.500
2nd class:
KD. 4.000

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with **YESUDAS—SUJATHA—VIJAY**
Tickets are available now everywhere,
but limited seats only.
Avoid disappointment.
26th Malayalam, 27th Hindi and South Indian songs.

Paper leak nullifies examination

ENGLISH language examinations, in Jahra's educational area, have been cancelled by the Ministry of Education, according to reliable sources.

The decision was taken due to fact that a teacher leaked the questions out to favoured students. The teacher admitted giving the questions to four pupils.

The undersecretary at the Ministry of Education immediately issued orders to nullify the relevant examination. The teacher and four boys were suspended and will be subjected to further punishment.

Garages to take up vehicle testing

KUWAIT'S Higher Traffic Council discussed the transferring of vehicle technical testing from the Traffic Department to a group of garages spread in different areas, a local daily reported.

The Traffic Department is to carry out the plan, alleviating its burdens, in co-operation with some garages next year, provided that the specific garages chosen will follow certain regulations set up by the department.

New premises for Health Ministry

THE Ministry of Public Health will receive its headquarters from the Ministry of Public Works by mid-next month, according to Youssef Al Ateeqi the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Service Affairs at the Ministry of Public Health.

He said that the new premises in Sulaibikhat will soon be furnished and that a lot of effort was exerted on the design and implementation of the headquarters.

The Health Ministry's old building will be allocated to the Central Registration Department.

Ateeqi stated that the Health Ministry will construct specialised hospitals and a number of health centres with the co-operation of the Ministry of Public Works.

He also said that all physicians and nurses being brought in from abroad will be provided accommodation. Locally recruited staff though will not be provided living quarters.

The official further praised the health projects donated by local philanthropists, saying that some of them were of excellent standard. The Allergy Centre donated to the state by the late Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, the Cancer Centre donated by Hussain Makki Al Jumrah, Hamed Al Issa's Thymus Transplant Centre and Thunayan Al Ghanim's Centre for Digestive diseases were all exceptional, he said.

He added that several other centres donated by citizens will soon be completed, such as Abdul Aziz Al Batain's Centre for Plastic Surgery, Mohammed Al Bahar's Centre for Ocular Diseases and Salem Al Ali's Centre for Speech Therapy and the Al Fahed Centre for Physiotherapy.

Kuwait's sewers to be renovated

A PROJECT for the renovation of Kuwait's sewers is currently being conducted by the Health Engineering Department at the Ministry of Public Works, according to a reliable source.

The project, which is still in its first stage will cost approximately KD16.5 million. Other projects already being implemented raise the total cost to KD22 million.

Future projects being planned include the expansion in quantities of treated water and preserving the environment. The expansion and renewal of Ardiya's sewage treatment station, will make it one of the biggest stations in Kuwait serving over 1,250,000 people.

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at the Holy Family Church,

Kuwait for the late

Mrs Dolice C.

Fernandes

expired on Nov 16, 1988

Mother of Lionel/Hazel

Grandmother of Shawn,

Lee & Craig

Howe arrives today for official talks

LONDON, Jan 1, (KUNA): British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow. He is due to hold discussions on regional and bilateral issues with his host, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad and other senior ministers.

This will be the Howe's first trip to the region since the Gulf war ceasefire.

British officials said today that stepped up efforts to secure a lasting peace in the Middle East would feature high on Howe's agenda during his tour of the Gulf states.

They also observed that Britain enjoys excellent ties with the GCC nations. Bilateral matters including trade will also be among the main topics of the discussions.

The PLO's latest peace initiatives would be examined and Howe would restate his country's welcome of the moves undertaken by the organisation's Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Howe is expected during his visit to publicly chide Israel for not responding positively to opportunities for peace in the region created recently by Palestinian action following PNC resolutions in Algiers.

In addition, officials pointed out that prospects for permanent peace in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq would be dealt with during Howe's exchanges in the Gulf.

According to his official programme the foreign secretary will spend a few hours on one of the British Royal Navy frigates on patrol in the Gulf.

He will emphasise in this connection that British naval ships would remain in the area as long as it was necessary.



People in Kuwait celebrating the new year with parties at home.

People celebrate the new year at home

By Lima Al Khalafawi

MANY expatriates embraced the new year by partying at home until the early morning hours yesterday. Many were, however, disappointed that they were not allowed to mark the occasion publicly because of the blanket ban on celebrations in public places.

Most of the expatriates who did not travel abroad during the holidays celebrated with family and friends at home because there was not much on offer in Kuwait's hotels anyway.

Kuwait bans public celebrations for Christmas and New Year to maintain the country's Islamic character. This year was, particularly dull since hotels were not allowed to let their in-house musicians to entertain the diners, many of whom ate in a tomb like silence.

A guest at a leading hotel told this newspaper that the authorities even disallowed the playing of Radio Kuwait's FM

service.

At home people are free to mingle, dance, listen to music and photograph friends in a cheerful atmosphere.

A shopper, Alan Stephense, who has lived in Kuwait for the past five years said that the new year is a busy festive occasion and that at-home parties are popular because of the various restrictions on public gatherings and dancing.

The authorities had declared a two-day holiday and people took advantage of this short respite from work to live it up. Locals too pitched their tents on Kuwait's camping areas in Mishref and Wafta.

Church-goers attended services in their festive best yesterday and later met with friends and relatives to greet the new year with memories of happier occasions in their own countries.

Government offices and banks which were closed during the two-day holiday will resume work today.



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Campers request police patrol

CAMPERS have requested the Ministry of Interior to assign patrol cars to preserve security on the camp sites, due to the increase in the number of thefts, committed by teenagers.

One of the citizens claimed that his generator, costing KDI,000, was stolen during the night. He added that the existence of the patrols will prevent such thefts and other violations, such as reckless driving endangering children's lives.

Lawyer sues mobile telephone company

KUWAIT Mobile Telephone Communication Systems Company has been sued in two different lawsuits, by a local lawyer, Saeed Abdullah Al Yamani.

The first lawsuit, scheduled for Jan 4, '89, accuses the company of failing short of its promises in annual subscription fees revision and the many shortcomings on its part to cater to the requirements of many subscribers, in various locations.

The lawyer has requested the company to revise the items and conditions of the contract set between them as the company holds a monopoly on the mobile telephone communication service in the country. He urged this case be dealt with immediately.

In the second lawsuit, scheduled Jan 9, '89 Yamani has requested the revision of items 2, 9, and 17 of the company's contract and the cancellation of items 11 and 13.

Saudi wildlife commission in Oman

MUSCAT, Jan 1, (KUNA): Bakheet Saeed Al Shanfari, the Omani Undersecretary for Environmental Affairs met here today with a visiting delegation of the Saudi National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development.

The Omani news agency said Bakheet briefed Saudi experts on

Oman's efforts to preserve the environment and wildlife and combat pollution.

The Saudi delegation arrived here last night on a five-day visit to the sultanate within the framework of environmental co-operation between the two countries.

\$113 million AMF loan to Iraq

THE Arab Monetary Fund has decided to cover part of the deficit in the Iraqi balance of payments, according to Dr Abdullah Al Quwaiz, the Director-General of the Fund and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs at the GCC.

In an interview with a local daily, Quwaiz said that the fund based in Abu Dhabi will make a US \$113 million loan to Iraq, adding that this will be the fifth loan to Iraq since the fund's establishment in 1977. He declared that the loans have totalled US \$23 million.

Quwaiz said that so far the fund has extended 81 loans to Arab member states, totalling \$925 million. He stated that the fund has also made a loan to Algeria of about \$113 million.

Resolutions

Three topics, dealing with economic and commercial aspects among GCC countries, were also discussed during the meeting, in addition to the resolutions adopted by the GCC supreme council during its ninth summit held recently in Bahrain. The resolutions included customs protection, encouragement of joint projects and unifying customs tariff, the official said.

He added that commercial agencies undertaken by GCC citizens will be completely discussed by an especially set up technical committee and that its recommendations will be referred to the tenth GCC summit next year in Oman.

Quwaiz, in his visit to India, hopes to implement the economic co-operation between India and the Arab countries. His visit is in response to an invitation extended to him by the Indian Council for International Economic Relations. The GCC General Secretariat has organised three seminars attended by Arab and Indian economists, for this purpose.

Gabid takes over as new OIC secretary-general

JEDDAH, Jan 1, (AP): Hamid Al Gabid, former prime minister of Niger, takes over Sunday as secretary-general of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference.

He replaces Sharifuddin Pirzada, a former foreign minister of Pakistan, who has held the post since 1985.

Al Gabid, 47, will be the sixth official to head the Jeddah-based OIC since it was formed in 1971 as the umbrella organisation for Muslim nations to promote Islamic solidarity and co-operation.

Experience

He has wide experience in handling Islamic problems and is a veteran diplomat with a background in finance.

Al Gabid was elected for a four-year term by the 17th Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers held in Amman, Jordan, last March.

He recently participated in the 100th session of the board of executive directors of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Al Gabid will also oversee the 18th Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers scheduled to be held in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, in March.

His association with the IDB began in 1975, when he represented Niger as a resident executive director. The ties were maintained with the bank when he served as a non-resident IDB executive director from 1979 to 1981.

One of his first moves as OIC secretary-general will be to convene a council of Islamic ambassadors accredited to Saudi Arabia to elect three assistant secretaries-general.

They will replace Muhammad Al Mukhtar Ouid Abbas of Mauritania, who handles political affairs, information and Muslim minorities; Al Sharif Muhammad Al Amin Haydarah of Gambia, who handles cultural and social affairs and the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Ibn Abdul Jalil of Malaysia, who handles administrative and financial affairs.

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Pakistan leads rice export to Bahrain

PAKISTAN has maintained its position as the leading exporter of basmati rice to Bahrain.

Basmati is one of Pakistan's main export earners and over the years has enjoyed a unique reputation as the 'finest quality rice in the world'.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, I.A. Ansari, Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Pakistan, highlighted the importance of basmati rice as Pakistan's main export product in the Gulf in general and in Bahrain in particular.

Ansari said the Pakistan government makes considerable efforts to ensure increasing production of basmati and to retain its special quality for consumer markets in the region.

The Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan (RECP)—a State-owned company—was set up to control and regulate the sale of Pakistani rice, basmati in particular, to world markets.

Pakistani rice is exported to the Gulf on governmental level. In accordance with the GCC rice import policy, formulated in Riyadh, RECP ensures the supply of basmati to individual Gulf states on a quota basis. Under this policy Bahrain imports about 15,000 tons of Pakistani rice, the bulk constitutes basmati, annually.

In 1987, basmati was sold to Gulf countries, including Bahrain at the cost of \$850 per ton. In 1988, the price was reduced to \$700 per ton.

According to Ansari, the demand for basmati has boosted considerably in recent times.

"Pakistan's basmati has retained its position as the market leader in Bahrain and we are hopeful there will be an increase of its sales in the island in 1989."

basmati remains Pakistan's major export to Bahrain and there are indications it will remain so in the long-term.

"We do not foresee any changes in our trade pattern with Bahrain. Things will remain more or less static, with basmati our main export to the island," said Ansari.

Apart from basmati, other major Pakistani exports to Bahrain include foodstuff (mainly fruits and vegetables), livestock, garments, textiles, carpets and spices.

Bahrain exports primarily aluminium and aluminium alloy to Pakistan. In 1987, Pakistan exported goods to Bahrain to the tune of BD5.08 million, while Bahrain exported goods worth BD6.22 million to Pakistan. 1988 bi-lateral trade figures between the two countries are expected to remain consistent over the corresponding year, with no major changes likely.

On future developments Pakistan is expected to increase the sale of basmati to Bahrain in the private sector, although on a limited scale.

The chairman of RECP, Manzurul Hussain, will be visiting Bahrain on January 16 to analyse the performance of Pakistani rice sales in the local market in general and to explore the demand and requirements of basmati through the private sector in particular.

"Our aim is to introduce basmati in the market through the private sector in small packages ranging from 1-20 kilograms," asserted Ansari.

"With the dynamic leadership of our new government we hope to boost Pakistan's political and commercial relationship with the Gulf in general and with Bahrain in particular," he added.

Pakistan has the second largest expatriate community in Bahrain, after India, with a total workforce of about 16,000. A number of Pakistani companies have been operating in Bahrain over several decades, particularly in the consumer market.

New Kuwait National Library to cover over 24,000 square metres

THE Kuwait National Library which will be built near the national museum will stretch over 24,000 square metres, according to Dr Farouk Al Omar, the General Secretary of the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters.

He added that the state's Central Library and its branches contain about 128,603 audio-visual material, Arabic and foreign books, 556 Arab and 316 foreign periodicals.

Omar pointed out that the council takes part in art and cultural activities by organising seminars and lectures.

Dr Fuad Sezken, the director of the Arab and Islamic Science History Institute at Frankfurt University will hold a lecture next week on pioneer Arab cartographers, who will also prove that the first map was made by Arabs 1200 years ago, Omar said.

He added that the council will hold a seminar on the short story in the GCC states from Jan 16, 1989 to Jan 18, 1989 and is also organising an Egyptian painters exhibition from Jan 30, 1989 to Feb 15, 1989, an Iraqi cultural week during the second week of February and the 10th festival of children's books in March.

The official added that the council will also take part in several book exhibitions organised by a number of Arab countries which includes, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen and the UAE.

The council has, further, set up a special committee to encourage Kuwaiti writers or other writers who write about Kuwait.

552 books on Kuwait and others written by Kuwaitis have been financially sponsored by the council and the state will sign cultural agreements with USA, Italy, Nigeria and Egypt shortly.

Tobacco tariff a gift: Awadi

RAISING the custom tariff on imported tobacco and cigarettes to 50 per cent was described as a gift for Kuwaitis and the Gulf people by Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, the Minister of Planning and acting Minister of Public Health.

In an interview with a local daily, Awadi expected that the decision which was adopted at the 26th Gulf Health Ministers meeting would face no popular opposition in Kuwait, observing that the majority of the people in Kuwait did not smoke. He said the number of smokers in Kuwait did not exceed 25 per cent of the population.

He however said that he does expect opposition from tobacco and cigarette companies but confirmed that their profits will not be affected. He added that the developing countries, including Kuwait were exploited by cigarette manufacturing companies implying that these com-

panies consider developing countries as open markets for their products.

Meanwhile, he called on the press and citizens to participate in highlighting the risks of smoking. He added that some countries, like Japan, USA, and France, intend to ban smoking by the year 2000. He felt identical measures in Kuwait was important.

Awadi described the resolutions adopted by the health ministers as realistic and easy to implement. He said there has been a study of health hazards of chemical warfare which has been referred to the council for scrutiny, commenting that the war was complicated, dangerous and threatened world peace.

Meanwhile, the daily disclosed that the conference had endorsed the council budget for 1989 estimated at SR3,350,652; Kuwait's contribution being approximately SR800,000.

Four tankers planned for KOTC

THE building of four giant crude oil tankers is considered a good financial investment by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, according to the company Chairman, Abdul Fattah Al Bader.

He said that the company is currently accepting proposals for the building of two oil tankers, with rights reserved for building another two at the same cost during the contract period.

Bader told a local newspaper that the company was negotiating costs. If no reasonable offer was made, the whole idea will be dropped, he said.

He further added that the com-

pany expected international oil markets to flourish in the early nineties, and that the delay in delivery of Kuwaiti oil tankers that are being built in Korea was caused by unfortunate labour strikes.

Bader said that the company projected a slight drop in shipping charges due to competition but forwarding charges will remain reasonable as crude oil prices are relatively low.

He was grateful, he said, to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to whom the company owed its success.

By screen reviewer

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

New Delhi: a saga of gory violence



Jeetendra: good performance

THERE was a film called 'New Delhi' made during the Fifties. It was a satire on linguistic chauvinism and segregation. It was also the most successful film of Mohan Segal with Kishore Kumar's comedy, Vyjayanthimala's dance and Shankar-Jaikishan's music as the highlights. The satire was very close to life and therefore plausible.

'New Delhi' made in 1988 is a songless film, which is a good thing considering the present standard of lyrics and compositions. But the good point almost ends here. The film is supposed to be an expose of our corrupt political system, but under the guise of the expose the film really offers a saga of gory violence. The story and screenplay serve only as a skeleton of framework for filling in the sequences of action and violence.

This is a sad pointer to the present progress of the industry. In the Fifties the worst film had a story which served as a framework for filling in the songs and dances. In the Eighties even the better made films have stories which serve as a framework for filling in scenes of action and violence, mostly senseless.

Technically 'New Delhi' is a well made film. Joshi's direction is superb and his exploitation of Delhi and Nainital locations is laudatory. It is obvious that painstaking planning and execution have gone into the making of this film. But theme-wise it boils down to nothing more than a saga of revenge. The technique and speed of the film engage the interest of the viewer, but it is doubtful if the viewer would like to take a second look at the film.

The film is the tale of a fearless and dedicated journalist known as Vijay Kumar or VK.

He antagonises two powerful politicians, Shankar and Deshbandhu, as he exposes their misdeeds. The politicians commit a rape and they manage to get VK declared as mentally sick when he tries to expose them. In the mental hospital VK is maimed. The bones of his right hand, with which he wrote the powerful articles, and right leg are broken. When VK comes out of jail, Maria Fernandes, the girl who was raped by the politicians, comes to VK's help. She happens to be very rich. VK starts his own newspaper. He is successful as his front page stories contain news created by himself, so they become scoops. The headline news are about how VK gets his enemies killed one by one by a group of assassins who had become his admirers in jail. Jeetendra as VK plays a role very different from those of his

usual image. It will be counted as one of the best performances of his career. The "jumping jack", for a change does not jump and dance but gives a power-packed performance. Sumalatha as Maria has a cosmetic role. She is a good-looking lady and is a pleasant sight amidst all those beastly men fighting with one another. Vincent's camera work is captivating. Shyam's background score keeps up the tempo of the film.

'Qatil'

THE makers of 'Qatil' had good intentions. They made a film with comparative newcomers, and they tried to make a film on a different kind of story. But mere good intentions are not enough. They started the film on one track, then went to another track, and reached nowhere. The film is a story of three

friends and a prostitute who is murdered in the wilderness in the first scene. The prostitute is eliminated but her spirit remains throughout the film. Among the three friends, one is a police inspector, another is a reporter and the third is a law student. The murder of the prostitute is reported by the reporter even before the police has registered a case of murder. The police inspector is rebuked by the commissioner on this account and for the reason that he is not able to find the criminal.

The law student has strong views on capital punishment and agitates for its abolition. The law student's father is a public prosecutor, and he is a strong advocate of capital punishment as he is convinced that it is in the interest of the society that such criminals be eliminated.

The law student's contention is that justice is not always just as it can be tempered by false evidence and shrewd lawyers. Often innocent persons are convicted, and as such the ultimate penalty of death should be abolished. To prove his point the law student poses as the murder of the prostitute. He creates all the evidence against him and all the defence. He entrusts the defence material to his journalist friend.

The law student's plan is that he would be convicted then in the appeal he would bring out the defence, and he would be acquitted, and thus he would prove his point. But his friend cheats him. There is supposed to be a bit of suspense in the film, so the murderer should

not be revealed.

The storyline appears reasonably good when written in brief, but it is ridiculous the way it has been developed by writers Ravi Kapoor and Mohan Kaul. When a person creates evidence against himself and then confesses in the court that he is the murderer, the court is bound to believe him. The insanity of the person, and not the court or the law, is to be blamed for the wrong judgement. The first half of the film is a conflict of views, and the second half becomes an action film, and the view is as confused as the filmmakers.

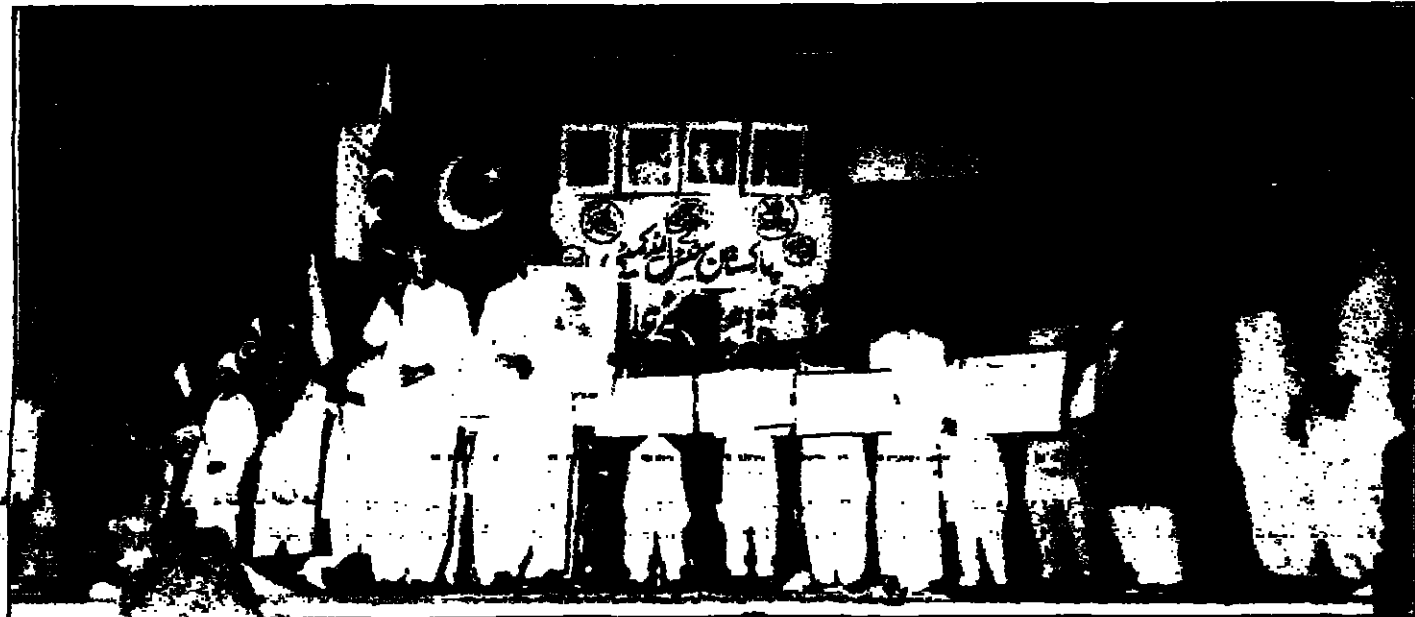
Best performance

Among the performers, Raza Murad does look like a public prosecutor and gives the best performance in the film. Kiran Kumar is also adequate as the police inspector. Shakti Kapoor looks as much of a journalist as a well dressed street goonda. Aditya Pancholi passes off as a law student who is on the campus for good time but not as an intense young man with humane feelings. Sangeeta Bhatnagar is the heroine of the film, who is loved by the hero and the villain. She is a cold beauty who will have to go through numerous films to be moulded into an actress.

Anwar Siraj's photography is pleasing to the eye. Ashok Gaikwad's direction is of the routine kind. Laxmikant and Pyarelal remain in their uninspired mood. Young lyricist Sameer is picking up the basic elements of song writing, and he has almost reached the current level of today's top writers.

Quaid-e-Azam birthday

THE Pakistan Central Aid Committee celebrated the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah at the Labour Union Hall in Hawalli on Friday. Pakistani Ambassador Zahid Saeed was the chief guest. Students from the local Pakistani schools participated in the programme which included patriotic songs, and speeches on the life and work of Jinnah. Pakistani poets also paid tribute to Quaid-e-Azam. (Photo: Javed Basra)



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT — Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Sultan Gallery
ANN Eid: Photographs of Kuwait, on show at the gallery. Thunayan Al Ghanem Bldg., Al Soor St. Open daily from 5-8 pm.

Ghadir Gallery
First personal exhibition of Kuwaiti artist Awatif Al Shatty will be opened on Tuesday, Jan

19. The exhibition will continue until Jan 24 from 9 am to 12.30 pm and from 4 pm to 8.30 pm.
Kuwait Society for Formative Arts

The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold its 22nd general exhibition on Jan 27. The society will accept the works of arts by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists who are interested in participating in the exhibition. Only three works as a maximum shall be accepted from each artist. The works should have never been exhibited in Kuwait. Replicas and copies shall not be accepted. Artists are invited to deliver their works at the premises of the society in Hawalli daily between 5 and 8 pm. Closing date is Jan 20.

THEATRE

Tamil Play
JAN 6: 5 pm. IAC presents full-length Tamil play entitled "Unmaiye Unn Vilai Enna?" (Truth: What is the Price?) Directed by C.K.V. Raman. For guest passes call 3904817; 3903879; 4881359; 5616930.

Konkani Drama
JAN 13: 3 pm. Labour Union Hall, Hawalli. The Goa Cultural Association presents Konkani drama entitled "Tujem Sukh Mozo Dushman," written and directed by Rex de Bardez. The cast includes the

Mendes Brothers, Anthony and guest-stars from Goa — William de Curtinor and S. Lemos. For details contact the GCA members.

KUWAIT Players
KUWAITI Players present the New Year musical fantasy "Alice in Wonderland" at the Universal American School, Salwa. Performance on Jan 18 and 25 at 6.30 pm, Jan 19 and 26 at 3 pm, Jan 20, 3 pm, 5.30, Mad Hatters tea party Jan 27 at 4 pm. Tickets are now on sale. Tel: 5726048, 5657749.

Manddo Festival
KUWAITI Konkani Kendri will organise a Manddo Festival very shortly for the first time in Kuwait. Any group interested in taking part in the contest may please contact any of KKK executive body member by the end of January, 1989 or telephone 2644983.

SOCIAL

Al Dana Restaurant
Wednesday — Sea drama on ice: enjoy fresh fish, seafood specialties highlighted on ice crystals.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Aliens
Starring: Bredman, James Cameron
Al Salmiya
(Booked for whole week)

Al Hamra
Ganga Jamunaa Saraswathi
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan
Drive-In
Youn Hii Youm Mour (Arabic)
Starring: Fatin Hamama, Mohammad Munir
Fahad (Open Air)
Nashat (Hindi)
Fahad
Ennu Nadhasse (Nimmi) (Malayalam)
Al Jabra
The Comeback
Granada
Red Heat
Salaabikhat
Malaf Samiya Sha'rawi, (Arabic film)
Jeeb Al Shyoonkh
Oru Sindoorapottenttu
Ormakku (Malayalam)
Al Firdous
Oner Preme One Jawab
Ahmadi Drive-In
Yanks

Nirhar Cultural Group
THE Nirhar Cultural Group will stage a cultural show on Jan 6, 1989 at the Al Andalus hall of the Holiday Inn at 6 pm to celebrate Bangladesh's Victory Day. For invitation cards please call Firoz Tel. 4310483.

HOTELS

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR coffee shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arz Band.

The Friday family brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 to 11 pm.

At the SAS
AL BUSTAN Friday brunch: for families from 11.30 am to 3 pm, highlights include music by Polish duo Danuta and Feliks and video corner for kids.

Peacock Room: Chinese meals prepared by chef Von Kwee Kiong. The menu features fried wonton, sauteed diced chicken with cashew nut and steak Chinese style.

At the Sheraton
RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Algiers St; Souq Wagif
Al Kawthar Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak St
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Firdous Pharmacy
Salmiya and Rumalhiya
Phoenix Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Souq Al Ahmadi
Khatun
Al Wahada Pharmacy
Main Street
Jabra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Commercial market

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Opening. Holy Quran, programme preview
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 A re-run for News D'Actualite
10.00 Local Serial: Bat Boukhalel
12.00 Local Programme: Kuwait Al Ams Introduced by: Jassem Al Gharib
12.50 Variety Show
1.00 News in Brief
1.05 Closedown, Holy Quran

EVENING

4.00 Opening. Holy Quran, programme preview
4.15 A re-run for the World Via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial: Bombo
5.25 Mama Anisa and the children
5.45 Variety Show
6.00 Historical Arabic Serial: Liqa' Fi Ethakira
7.00 News in Brief
7.05 Official announcements (pharmacies and airlines)
7.15 Variety Show
7.30 Local Programme: Aftalona Walmutaqbal

8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.40 A Song
9.45 Arabic Serial: Dawar Ya Zaman (Part 2)
10.50 Local Programme: Fan Wafikr (Part 1) prepared and introduced by: Amal Abdullah
12.00 News Briefs
12.05 World Today Via Satellite
12.20 Close down

KTV 2

6.00 Opening. Announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Chocky. David and his wife plan to proceed on a business trip to the Far East when their eldest son has a headache... then the matter develops into unexpected dimensions...
7.00 Roving Report. A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news, events and activities
7.30 Perspective. A look at life secrets... forests, people and grass... the role played by

laboratories and natural sciences in this respect...
8.00 News in English
8.30 A Different World. "Denis" returns to school after her summer holiday where she meets with her school mates and everyone starts discussing their holidays.

9.30 Rediscovery of the World. A look at New Zealand's seashores and the fishing industry...

10.00 Hitchcock. A singer is attacked by his competitors and plans to avoid them by alleging that he is dead...

10.30 French Film: "La Chambre 17". Starring: Anna Karine, Philip Leonard, Jack Maran. A criminal starts killing his childhood friends one after the other... a police inspector starts investigating the case.

11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newdesk
30 In Praise of God
0100 News Summary followed by A Question of Science (ex 2nd Feature)
45 Havana Guitar Festival (ex 2nd Mario Lanza)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
30 Science in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newdesk
30 Five William Stories (ex 23rd and 30th Dangerous in Love)
45 Nature Now
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Waveguide
40 Words of Faith
45 Recording of the Week
0600 Newdesk
30 With Good Reason: 9th The Art of the Weatherman; 16th Boy Soldiers; 23rd and 30th The International Arms Trade
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Monarchs (ex 23rd Gypsies; 30th W B Yeats: The Last Romantic)
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 Five William Stories (ex 23rd and 30th Dangerous in Love)
30 Anything Goes

0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
1000 News Summary followed by 2nd With Good Reason: 9th The Art of the Weatherman; 16th Boy Soldiers; 23rd and 30th The International Arms Trade
30 The Vintage Chart Show
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Newdesk
15 Novel Ideas
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Monarchs (ex 23rd Gypsies; 30th W B Yeats: The Last Romantic)
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 My Grandfather (ex 30th Reading)
1500 Newdesk
15 A Question of Science (ex 2nd Feature)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 2nd Sportsround; 9th and 16th Five William Stories; 23rd and 30th Dangerous in Love
30 Health Matters (ex 2nd Sportsround contd)
45 The World Today (ex 2nd Sportsround contd)
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Quota, Unquote
45 Sports Roundup

1800 Newdesk
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
25 Financial News
30 Network UK
45 Poems by Post (ex 30th W B Yeats: Readings from the Poems)
2000 World News
09 The World Today
25 Words of Faith
30 The Vintage Chart Show
2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
15 Europe's World
30 Sports International
2200 Newdesk
2300 World News
09 Commentary
15 The Learning World
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20

ALL TIMES GMT

English

Morning
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0805 Science Journal
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Songs and Music
0915 Writers and Their Works
0930 Radio Magazine Supplement
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
1130 News on FM Service
Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Bits and Bytes
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music



KALA celebrates 10th anniversary

THE Kerala Art Lovers Association (KALA), celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding with a painting competition for children at the Indian embassy premises on Friday. The competition was inaugurated by the Principal A.K. Goel, of the Indian School, Salmiya. It was followed by a colourful variety programme which included regional dances and a Keralite traditional play Chanthra. KALA has created a strong audience for its various cultural and art programmes. Picture above shows children doing their paintings. A view of traditional dance (left).

All entries for the What's On column must be handed over personally to Events Section, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwalkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

REQUIRED

COMPUTER OPERATOR

An International Marketing Company requires a Computer Operator for the Super-Mini WANG Computer and IBM Micro Computers. The job requires young energetic and hard working person having good command of English language. The incumbent should possess the following qualifications:

- High School with 3-4 years of experience in Computer Operations OR
- Bachelors degree with 1-2 years of experience in Computer Operations.
- Fair knowledge of Word Processing and Spreadsheet packages.
- Basic knowledge of Operating Systems and Utility Software.
- Exposure to operations of Commercial Applications & Data entry.

Please contact on telephone 245 58 01

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A HAPPY life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live. — Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

OPINION

Israel is the culprit

WHO bombed the Pan Am plane? It remains a mystery. The Pan Am explosion occurred soon after Yasser Arafat's true and direct declaration renouncing terrorism. It came after the ceasefire in the Gulf and after outside operations had stopped. It also followed the agreement, of all the nations in the UN, to shift the General Assembly deliberations on the Palestine issue to Geneva to hear the PLO leader's speech.

The speech was heard, supported and sympathised with. The entire world began to put pressure on Israel to agree on an international peace conference. It is Israel alone who rejects holding the conference, simply because it does not want the peace the world wants. It only wants the peace that complies with fanatical Jewish ideology.

Returning to our question, who really bombed the Pan Am jumbo? Israel, naturally, is aware of how such an incident will affect the US public sympathy. The side which bombed the plane, if known, will surely gain the US public opinion's enmity. Israel also realises that US public opinion, and the administration are fed up with the Jewish nation's practices, behaviour and illogical demands. This has reached the extent that any American action in favour of Israel, is leading to exactly the opposite result.

The US, for example, responded to the Israeli demand by not going ahead with the arms deal with Saudi Arabia, resulting in Saudis buying arms from the UK and China under better conditions. US also positively responded with the Israeli demand in not granting the PLO chairman a visa so that he could address the UN General Assembly in New York. The session was afterwards shifted to Geneva, harming US prestige.

The US has become tired of illogical Israeli demands and in turn Israel has started feeling that the US public opinion has begun to put pressure on its administration. The US-Israeli relations needed something that would support Israel's claim that it holds the key to stability in the Middle East and that it represents the US interests.

So, Israel exploded the American plane. Such a neat and accurate operation is neither an Arab one nor carried out by any Middle East country. It aimed at implying that as long as terrorism exists, peace will remain very far. Israel, which allowed reckless people to kill its ambassador in London in 1982 to use it as a pretext to invade and occupy parts of Lebanon, will never hesitate to do anything else.

Present Israeli leaders are the colleagues and sons of the leaders of the Jewish terrorist gangs, who before 1948 killed many Britons, by blowing up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem to force the English withdrawal from Palestine and declare the establishment of Israel.

The blowing up of the Pan Am plane is an Israeli action. Its main purpose is to influence the US public opinion and force it to abandon its quest to achieve peace in the Middle East. However, Israel will not succeed in its game this time. The world cannot be fooled by a simple telephone call to a news agency claiming that a certain organisation carried out the bombing. Such calls are no longer effective.

In addition, the men of the Middle East today, really insist in achieving peace and in holding the international peace conference, despite Israeli behaviour.

In the future, we will find out that those who bombed the US aeroplane, to kill the Americans are the same people who blew up the King David Hotel to kill the British. This is because the fanatic Israeli feels that what Hitler committed is a debt on the whole free world and it avenges whenever an opportunity arises.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Romanians shiver through winter

By Colin McIntyre

BUCHAREST, (Reuters): There was not much cheer among Romania's hard-pressed consumers when electricity restrictions in force for the past six winters were eased recently. When they had done their calculations, they found they could use one 40-watt bulb for an extra 10 minutes a day.

Small comfort when the average winter electricity allocation is enough to light a typical apartment for only two or three hours a day, and excludes the use of refrigerators or washing machines. Electric heaters have been banned for years.

Meanwhile central heating for Romanian households was cut to four and half hours a day, and hot water to between two and four hours, up to Dec 15. From then until March 1, the coldest months of the year, households will be heated for seven hours a day, but the hot water ration has been extended by only half an hour a day.

Close. All shops and businesses must close by 5.30 in the afternoon, and restaurants by nine o'clock at night, to save electricity.

Public offices, schools and institutions are ordered to gear their opening times to make maximum use of daylight hours, but under a recent decree are allowed

to heat for a couple of hours on Sundays if there is a danger of the pipes freezing up.

Even the international terminal at Bucharest's Otopeni Airport is unheated. On a recent visit to Romania Western businessmen, muffled against the biting cold inside the building, scanned the boards anxiously for their flights as they swapped stories of trying to do business in chilly hotel rooms, offices and factories.

Shortages. For the sixth straight winter, Romanians are facing chronic shortages of everything, including food, as the country's autocratic leader Nicolae Ceausescu diverts most of the country's resources to paying off its foreign debts.

Meanwhile imports have been cut to the barest essentials, and these do not include badly-needed new power-generating equipment to replace the country's antiquated stock.

Ceausescu decreed five years ago that the \$10 billion debt must be paid off in five years, and this has almost been achieved, though at a heavy price in human deprivation.

As virtually all fresh food is sold to the West for hard currency, Romanians wait in long queues for unsaleable parts such as pig's trotters and sheep heads, when they are available.

NEW YORK, (AP): The world changed quickly in 1988, and 1989 could present even more challenges for statesmen, economists and scientists.

The Middle East may see a major new peace effort. Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to make the pace of change in the Soviet Union even faster. China is making new contacts with Moscow, and Western Europe is looking forward to a new era of East-West détente.

Meanwhile, Latin America faces continued debt and economic stagnation, apartheid and economic backwardness are the key issues in Africa and burgeoning economies in Asia are remaking the map of world trade.

Scientists are facing the challenges of AIDS, and depletion of the earth's ozone layer and rain forests.

Middle East. The new US dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation holds the seeds of a possible breakthrough in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

One almost certain byproduct will be increased pressure on Israel, appalled at the formal US-PLO talks, to negotiate itself with Yasser Arafat's organisation. The PLO unilaterally declared a Palestinian state in 1988 in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. There will likely be hard bargaining over Arab, Soviet and European calls for an international Mideast peace conference attended by the PLO.

Iran is likely to continue its emerging policy of improving ties with the rest of the world, ending nine years of political isolation. That could improve the prospects of freeing Western hostages in Lebanon, many of whom are in the hands of pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim extremists.

Arab states, particularly in the strategic Gulf, will be looking for a greater effort by the new US administration to overcome Congressional resistance to selling them advanced weapons. Congress, under pressure from the pro-Israel lobby, has torpedoed several arms deals in recent years.

Soviet Union. In fewer than four years, Mikhail Gorbachev has painted over the image of the Soviet Union as a boastful, missile-wielding totalitarian state. Instead, he is trying to draw a portrait of a hopeful giant, struggling to pull itself up by the bootstraps and join the community of peaceful nations.

But the Soviet Union still has those missiles, and the superpowers are likely to work in 1989 to slash strategic arsenals in half on both the Soviet and American sides.

The main roadblock remains the US "Star Wars" programme to develop a space-based defence against missile attack. Gorbachev insists such a programme only opens a new, dangerous arena for the arms race, and makes reductions in offensive weapons impossible. Beyond that lie unresolved questions about how the two sides can fairly balance reductions in their inherently different land, sea and air weapons systems.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev is trying to develop new trade relationships throughout the world. The United States has moved more slowly than some nations in Asia and Western Europe to encourage an end to Soviet isolation and support development of a potentially powerful new Soviet market.

At home, Gorbachev faces the task of dealing with continued ethnic unrest, the aftermath of December's disastrous Armenian earthquake and a raft of domestic ecological problems, only now receiving a full airing in the Soviet press.

He also will move in 1989 to create a new state structure, with a parliament and presidency more similar to those in the West and new measures to promote

By Alstair Lyon

AMMAN, (Reuters): The Arab world appears unmoved by an emerging Israeli campaign to revive the moribund Camp David accords as a basis for peace talks that would exclude the PLO.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, firing counter-blasts in a propaganda war over who is really seeking Middle East solutions, said on Sunday he was preparing a new peace plan.

Aides said Shamir would reiterate an offer of direct talks with Jordan, Egypt and non-PLO Palestinians, possibly with limited involvement of the two superpowers.

Conference. "Shamir is trying to plough the sea. It's absurd and nothing will come of it," said Asad Abdul Rahman, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Central Council.

"He is singing alone in his bath, not listening to the wishes of the whole world. American Jewry or the 54 per cent of Israelis who opinion polls say favour talks with the PLO."

Jordanian Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said on Wednesday his country's position was unchanged.

In 1988 there were changes on several fronts

Challenges lie ahead in 1989

more democratic decision-making in the government and economy.

Eastern Europe. Communist authorities in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria are recognising a need for economic and perhaps political reform to modernise outmoded industries and keep consumer demands satisfied.

But new laws allowing more private and foreign investment in East bloc economies will not boost output unless the West agrees to make large loans and import or sell its advanced technology.

Some West European leaders have talked of a kind of "Marshall Plan" to help out Eastern Europe, where massive investment would be needed to provide modern housing and industry and clean up the heavily polluted environment.

Within East Europe, increasingly vocal and active independent groups are calling for broader civil rights and asking the West to use trade measures to help make their nations comply.

East Germany and Romania, for the time being, stand apart from the other nations of East Europe, rejecting most of the economic and political change their allies have embraced. Outside the Soviet bloc, non-aligned Yugoslavia will be looking in the new year for ways to solve its economic crises and ease ethnic unrest.

Western Europe enters 1989 preoccupied with East-West arms control talks efforts to unify its domestic market and a continuing flirtation with Mikhail Gorbachev.

West European leaders will likely meet with US President George Bush this spring at a summit of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. By that time, the NATO allies may well have begun negotiations — called the conventional stability talks — with the seven Warsaw Pact nations on reducing conventional arms in Europe.

Meanwhile, the 12-nation European Economic Community will be working to mold itself into a single market by the end of 1992. That's when the nations are to remove many of the trade barriers separating them.

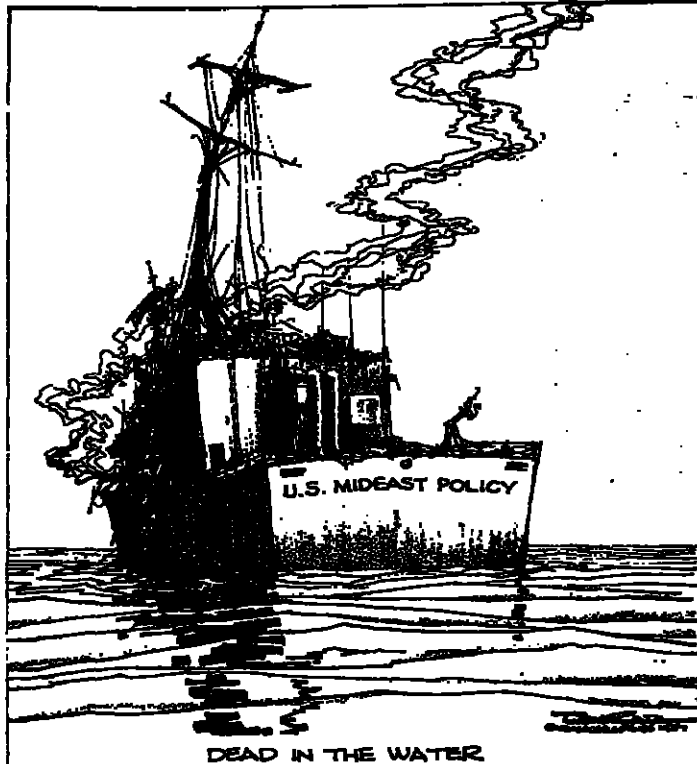
US and Japanese businessmen have expressed worry, despite repeated denials by Europeans, that the unifying moves will cause Western Europe to turn inward, possibly erecting barriers to outside goods. At the end of 1988, the United States and the EEC were heading into a major trade conflict over European limitations on the import of some US beef.

Western Europe is also likely to increase its economic and financial ties to the Soviet Union. A number of European banks have offered large amounts of credit to help the Soviets modernise their economy.

North America. President George Bush, who campaigned on the theme of continuing the "peace and prosperity" of Ronald Reagan's eight years in the White House, will be faced with challenges on both fronts.

The federal government's budget deficit, projected at \$145 billion over the next 12 months, will be the No. 1 priority. The challenge is to get it down and soothe world financial markets, without raising taxes and without cutting defence spending too drastically.

Bush also has promised to be an "education president" and to lead a "gentler and kinder" nation. For budget cutters, that



makes education and social welfare funds almost as sacred as defence dollars. Bush needs to find money to help thousands of homeless Americans and chip away at other social ills, including the drug crisis, the spread of AIDS and continued threats to the environment.

In foreign policy, Bush is looking toward continued advances in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union while maintaining a good relationship with US allies in Europe.

Now that the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are on speaking terms, the new Bush administration will be under increasing pressure to use its influence for an all-encompassing Arab-Israeli settlement.

Canada will be looking in the new year for reassurance from President Bush that it is trusted as an ally and valued as the United States' No. 1 trading partner. In a bruising campaign that gave Prime Minister Brian Mulroney his second consecutive majority government, the top issue was the now-signed free trade agreement with Washington.

Central America. Central America will start the new year much as it started 1988 — with wars, deep economic problems and social and political instability.

The United States will have to decide whether to continue US funding for the Contra rebels in their attempt to oust the almost 10-year-old Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Shortly after his election, Bush indicated he might take a more diplomatic approach with the Sandinistas.

The majority of the Contras, backed by the United States since 1981, have moved into base camps in Honduras. Honduras, a strong US ally, wants the United States to get the rebels out.

In El Salvador, Marxist-led guerrillas appear more determined than ever to topple the US-backed government. Presidential elections in March could favour the conservative candidate from the National Republican Alliance, known as Arena, which has promised a tougher approach toward the guerrillas.

Honduras and Panama will hold presidential elections in 1989. Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian strongman, could run and win, putting the US administration in the position of dealing with an elected leader who has been indicted on drug charges in the United States.

The Caribbean. Among Caribbean nations, Haiti faces some of the biggest challenges in 1989. Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril has undertaken a series of

democratic reforms since he assumed Haiti's presidency in a military coup Sept 17. He has installed a mostly civilian cabinet, purged the Army of scores of notoriously corrupt officers and stepped up co-operation with the United States in reducing drug-trafficking through Haiti.

Bush must decide whether to recommend a resumption of currently suspended aid in hopes of keeping Avril in power long enough to make good on his promise of democracy, or to await further reforms.

Elsewhere in the Caribbean, analysts will be watching for signs of a shift in Cuban-Soviet relations. Fidel Castro has shown a lack of enthusiasm for Mikhail Gorbachev's call for more openness and economic enterprise.

In Jamaica, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who is staunchly pro-United States, faces a tough challenge from former Prime Minister Michael Manley, a socialist, in elections expected early this year.

Guyana President Desmond Hoyte is seeking more Western aid in dealing with his non-aligned nation's economic plight.

Asia. The Far East appears headed for a year of increased prosperity in many countries. There could also be less tension in some traditional hot spots like the Korean peninsula, where the North and South have started a tentative dialogue.

There may be a chance to resolve the Kampuchean issue as Vietnam continues its troop withdrawal, though a power vacuum could leave an opportunity for the Khmer Rouge to try again for power. Other Southeast Asian nations, the United States and Japan favour the mercurial Prince Norodom Sihanouk to lead a new Kampuchean government.

Key economies are booming from South Korea to Singapore, led by Japan's juggernaut economy. Some slowdowns are possible in 1989, however, as the region settles down to a more sustainable growth rate. The "little dragons" — South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore — had growth rates of 6 to 11.5 per cent in 1988, and trade frictions with the United States and Europe are likely to continue.

Japan is also a key to building an aid package with US and European participation to help the debt-ridden Philippines and its newly democratised government. Newly democratised South Korea could also see continued uneasiness in 1989.

China. China and the Soviet Union are expected to hold their first summit in 30 years by mid-1989, ending a rift that drastically reshaped the strategic thinking of the world powers.

But China has asserted it will never return to the relationship of the 1950s, when Beijing was a subservient ally of Moscow. China has the power in the new year to play a larger role in ending the war in Kampuchea. China provides arms and political support to the Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction in the anti-Vietnamese coalition in Kampuchea. Vietnam insists the withdrawal of its troops hinges on assurances that the Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of 2 million Kampuchians when they ruled in the 1970s, not return to power.

China's move to free its internal markets has led to strong growth but also rampant inflation and other economic ills, and Beijing has decided to stop introducing free-market measures and catch its breath. Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, 84, has gone increasingly into retirement but still would be the man to deal with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev if the summit takes place.

Arabs unmoved by Israeli bid to exclude PLO from talks

"We believe the peace process should start with an international conference attended by all parties, including Israel and the Palestinians represented by the PLO, under the auspices of the United Nations and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council," he told Reuters.

King Hussein has kept silent on the reports, so far vague, of new Israeli proposals based on the US-brokered Camp David agreements which led to the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

On Tuesday night he talked by telephone with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who said this week he would be ready to visit Israel if it would lead to a just Middle East peace.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali has said such a visit would depend on Israel first agreeing to talk to the PLO, which it has sworn never to do.

An Asian diplomat said he doubted that an Israeli proposal springing from Camp David's call for limited Palestinian

autonomy would tempt any Arab state into direct talks.

"Camp David is outdated," he said. "The Israelis are trying to weaken the PLO's peace offensive and prevent an independent Palestinian state by saying they want peace. It won't work." Arafat, speaking in Baghdad after a PLO Executive Committee meeting discussed creation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, attacked Shamir's proposals for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza after Arab acceptance of autonomy there.

Recognise. "Shamir must understand he cannot create a beautiful bride from a monkey, he can neither beautify Camp David nor (Palestinian) autonomy," Arafat told reporters.

Jordan, like most other Arab states, rejected the Camp David accords at their birth. This year Amman underlined its refusal of a separate peace with Israel by disengaging from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and turning it over to the PLO.

King Hussein received PLO leader Yasser Arafat warmly in Amman last month after Jordan recognised the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state. A senior PLO delegation met Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i on Tuesday to discuss PLO-Jordan co-operation.

Far from setting the PLO adrift, Jordan and other Arab moderates such as Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia are actively encouraging the organisation in its new peace strategy.

The nascent moderate Arab bloc voiced delight at the US decision to open a dialogue with the PLO after Arafat recognised Israel, accepted key UN resolutions and renounced terrorism.

The Arabs want to spend momentum towards an international peace conference at which the PLO would speak for itself and see Shamir's reported peace initiative as a diversion. "Shamir is trying to throw the ball back to the Arabs and to impress the Americans that he is interested in peace," a Jordanian official said. "It's a game."

Subcontinent

The Soviet Union is likely to shift its focus in Afghanistan in 1989 from an overt military role to preservation of its political influence.

The Soviet Union, which is scheduled to end its nine-year intervention in Afghanistan by Feb 15, recently bypassed President Najib and opened its first publicly acknowledged talks with some of the Afghan guerrillas fighting the Moscow-client government.

If Moscow neutralises at least some guerrilla groups through negotiations, Western governments may have to decide whether to recognise a post-Najib government or to continue supporting any guerrillas who go on fighting.

A new leader in Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, has vowed to continue good relations with the West but also seeks to improve ties with Moscow. Heavy Western military aid to Pakistan is still likely in an effort to counter Soviet influence, political or military, in neighbouring Afghanistan and India and to satisfy the politically powerful Pakistani armed forces.

India, the subcontinent's biggest military and political force, has improved ties with Washington while remaining friendly with Moscow under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv must call new elections by the end of 1989. Despite escalating attacks from the political opposition, a viable alternative to the Gandhi dynasty has yet to emerge.

Africa. South Africa's white leaders are likely to attempt measures in 1989 that would prevent additional foreign sanctions, especially by the United States.

These could include additional releases of political prisoners, softening of some remaining apartheid laws and further diplomatic overtures toward black Africa. The new year could see a final settlement on independence for Namibia — another development that would improve South Africa's overseas standing.

In response to such gestures, anti-apartheid leaders in South Africa — and their allies abroad — are likely to argue that continued outside pressure on the government is essential to force it to lift harsh state-of-emergency regulations and grant full political rights to the black majority.

The probable settlement in Namibia is to be coupled to withdrawal of Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola, where they have been aiding the Marxist government in its civil war against the UNITA rebel movement. The United States will have to decide if and when to halt its aid to the rebels.

Elsewhere in Africa, the continent will continue to have staggering development needs. The Soviet bloc seems to have abandoned expansionist policies on the continent, and left-leaning governments in countries such as Mozambique, Angola and Ethiopia seem more willing than ever to turn to the West for help. Some nations permitted themselves to be used as toxic waste dumps in 1988 in a desperate attempt to make money, but a backlash from government and environmental groups is likely to make such business much rarer in 1989.

South Pacific. In a landmark speech in Vladivostok in July 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev committed the South Union to exerting its influence across the Pacific. Moscow says its intentions are entirely peaceful, but some Westerners consider the region potentially strategic and worry about any Soviet military activities there.

Moscow, after winning a string of fishing agreements with small island nations and then losing them, is now courting Australia as a serving centre for Soviet fishing fleets.

Meanwhile, France continues its refusal to abandon nuclear testing in the area, and is still busy trying to resolve ethnic conflicts in New Caledonia.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1492 — Spain captures Granada from Moors.
- 1799 — Britain joins Russian-Turkish alliance; Napoleon Bonaparte advances into Syria.
- 1900 — Open door policy in China is announced by US Secretary of State John Hay.
- 1905 — Russians surrender Manchurian city of Port Arthur to Japanese.
- 1909 — Dismissal of Yuan Shih-Kai places Chinese administration in Manchuria hands.
- 1913 — Turkish garrison on Chios Island surrenders to Greeks.
- 1932 — Manchukuo republic is proclaimed in Manchuria.
- 1933 — Anarchists and syndicalists uprising starts in Barcelona.
- 1937 — Anglo-Italian agreement on Mediterranean and for maintaining independence of Spain.
- 1942 — Philippines capital of Manila is captured by Japanese in World War II.
- 1943 — Germans begin withdrawal from Caucasus.
- 1965 — Ayub Khan wins Pakistan presidential elections.
- 1971 — Sixty-six people suffocate and are trampled to death when crowd barrier gives way at soccer match in Glasgow, Scotland.
- 1976 — Soviet Union hardens stand on emigration despite 1975 Helsinki agreement to permit freer movement of people and ideas in Europe.
- 1988 — Right-wing guerrillas ambush train near Mozambique's western border, and at least 22 people are killed and 71 injured.



The remains of a Yugoslav Airlines plane.

Air travel: just how safe is it?

BEFORE you travel by plane do you need a couple of tranquilizers to steady your nerves? Or do you pray as the plane taxis down the runway? Is it all silly and superstitious, or do passengers have every reason to be nervous?

Although modern air travel is statistically safer than going by road, it is still not as safe as many people believe. On more than one occasion all four engines have failed in mid-flight. There was even a time when the entire top of a Boeing 737 peeled away during take-off.

There has been an alarming increase in near misses involving commercial aircraft, but mid-air collisions are not the only hazards of flying. Hijackers, ageing aeroplanes, sabotage and overworked crews are just some of the other risks. These alarming revelations are made by veteran pilot Captain Laurie Taylor.

So how safe is air travel? Captain Taylor told me at his home in Camberley, Surrey, England: "It's safer than travelling by car, motorcycle or

Veteran pilot Captain Laurie Taylor reveals the real risks of air travel in his book that exposes the hidden dangers — and indicates which airlines to avoid. Ktima Heathcote went to meet him — but she travelled there by bus!

even by bicycle, though not quite as safe as a train."

Even so, Laurie, aged 66, a pilot with the RAF for five years and with British Airways for nearly 30 years, says 1,000 people die in air crashes each year despite certain improvements in air safety.

Captain Taylor — awarded an OBE in 1973 for services to air and transport — maintains many of the hazards are actually caused by the airlines themselves in their quest for more passengers and profit.

He says: "Until recently, planes that flew across oceans had to have three or four engines. Today, we fly across the Atlantic and the Pacific in two-engine aircraft. It's done to cut costs, but I consider it an irresponsible move."

Another hazard according to

Captain Taylor are the new "combi" planes which carry both cargo and passengers on the main deck. It could be very risky if the cargo were dangerous chemicals.

But his major concern is ageing aircraft. He explains: "Until jets were invented, aeroplanes became obsolete before they were worn out. Now we have planes which have reached the end of their design life."

Claim

"Underneath the paintwork they are becoming cracked and corroded, which is difficult to detect unless the paint is stripped away."

"Some of the finest Boeing 707s and 727s have gone past the end of their design life but are still being used. They would be safe if we could be sure the

ground engineers had repaired the cracks and corrosion, but the difficulty is finding them. Even X-rays have not detected all the faults."

Experts may claim there is little chance of an aircraft cracking up, but try telling that to the nine passengers who were 20,000 in the air when the top peeled off because of a crack.

Captain Taylor says: "That incident happened in the early eighties and some airlines still take risks and use aircraft aircraft way beyond their design life."

"One of the major reasons for this risk-taking is that there is no single standard of safety governing airlines. Each is largely responsible for making its own rules, which creates a huge disparity in standards."

If you fly in Britain, France or West Germany you are three times more likely to die in an aircraft crash than in Scandinavia. And the risk of being involved in a fatal accident is 775 times higher in Colombia, S. America

than in Australia.

Captain Taylor says studies of 18 major countries show that Australia has the best safety record, followed by North America, Western Europe, Asia, South America and then Asia. He is also concerned about over-burdened air traffic control systems and crowded skies, combined with over-worked crews.

He explains: "Each country has its own air traffic control system. So, if you're flying from Malaga to Frankfurt, the pilot would talk to 11 different traffic controllers. It's a pretty archaic system which is why there are so many breakdowns in communication."

"We really need a single computerised European air traffic control system. It would reduce delays considerably and also prevent congestion becoming a safety problem. Crews and pilots have to wait around if there are delays and a lot of pilots have complained about falling asleep."

Captain Taylor, a former chairman of the British Airline Pilots' Association, also wants smoking banned on short flights and believes duty-free goods like alcohol, which is inflammable, should be sold arrival, not on departure. For while airlines cannot prevent hijackers and sabotage, drunken rowdies are something Captain Taylor has had more than his fair share of.

He recalls: "I had a passenger who was running amok and annoying the other passengers and cabin crew. With my permission the radio officer knocked him out cold."

But Captain Taylor is against armed security guards on aircraft. "The last thing you want is a shoot-out at the OK Corral, though I accept that airlines for countries with major political unrest have little choice."

But before you cancel this year's holiday flight abroad and book a world cruise instead, Captain Taylor adds:

"Passengers can lessen their chances of being at risk if they know the secrets of air travel."

"Airlines that are making a loss or running into financial difficulties are likely to cut corners on aircraft maintenance and crew training, so I wouldn't use them."

"The thing to remember is that safety is expensive. I'm not pointing the finger at any specific airlines, but be wary of ones that really slash their fares."

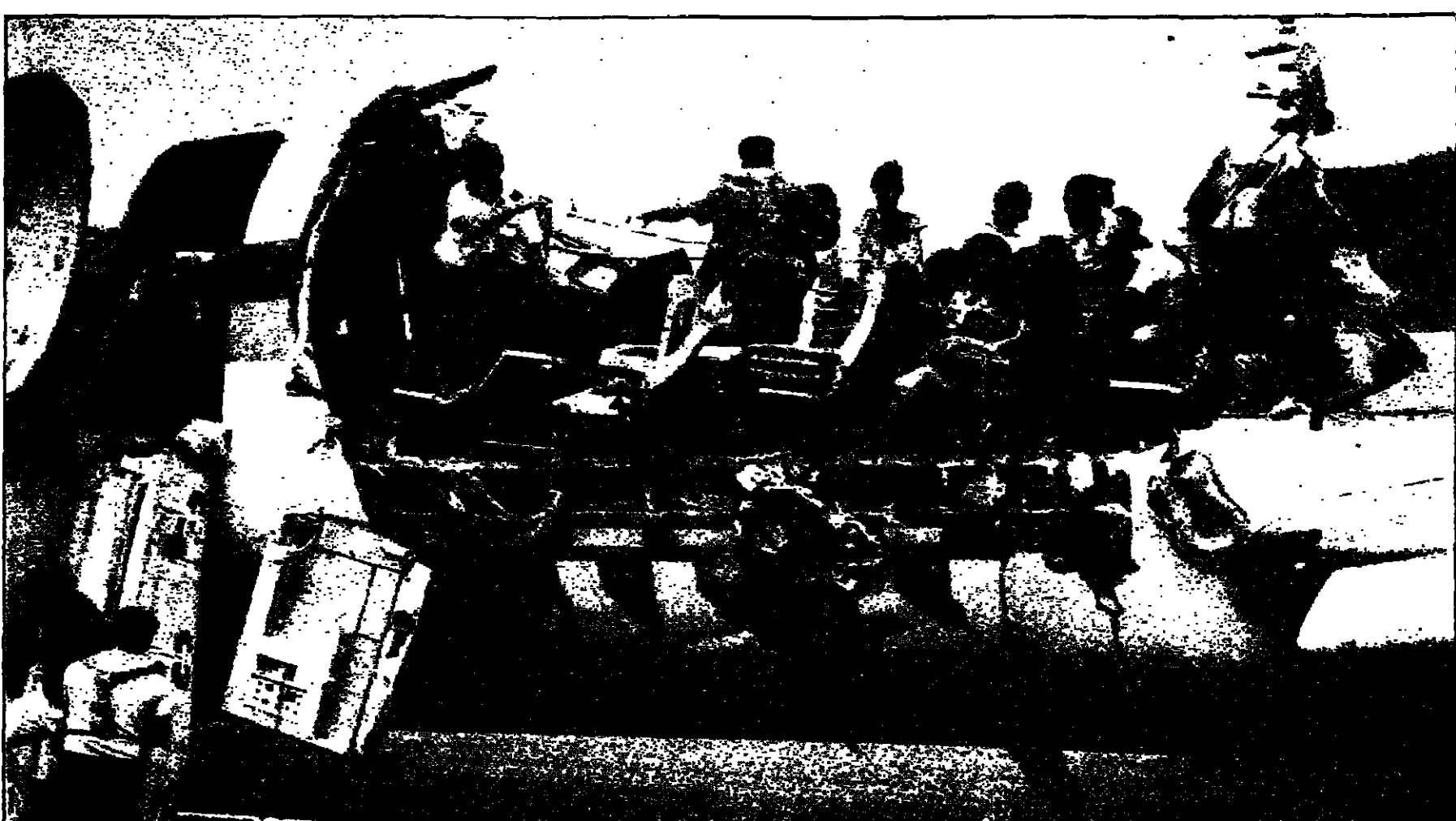
Another handy tip is to travel first or business class. Captain Taylor says you have more chance of survival there in an emergency than in economy class.

Captain Taylor and his wife Marjorie are going on a world trip next year. So, will it be any plane!

He smiles and says: "Of course. We're not nervous about flying — just choosy." **Air Travel — How Safe Is It?** by Laurie Taylor; Professional Books, £19.95

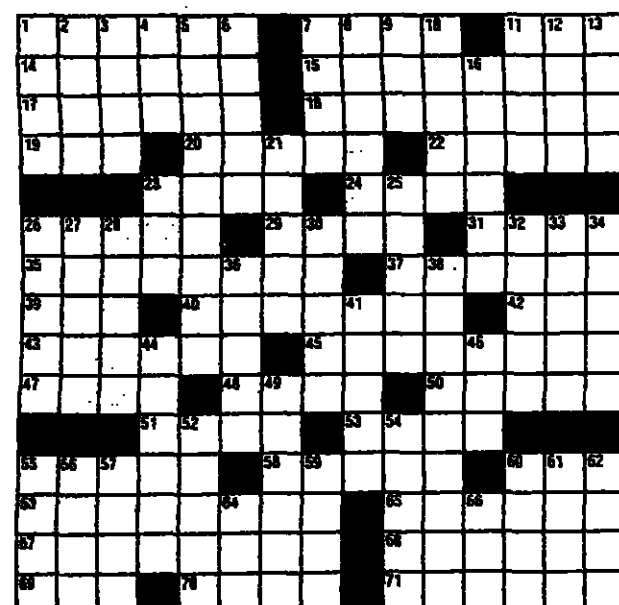


Veteran pilot Captain Laurie Taylor, author of a book that exposes the hidden dangers of air travel.



Missing a huge chunk of its roof, an Aloha Airlines 737 lands in Maui. The photo was taken by a passenger aboard the crippled jet, who scrambled to the tarmac.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Kitchen appliance | 71 Put into a carton | burden |
| 2 Skin opening | 11 Commuter's haven: Abbr. | 12 Verve | 32 Useful |
| 14 Like the edelweiss | 15 Reclusive | 16 TV summer fare | 33 Usage recorder |
| 17 East Indian sailor | 18 Make fun of | 19 Direction initials | 34 Encourages |
| 20 Conversation piece | 22 Colors slightly | 23 Sicilian spewer | 36 Takes to the sky |
| 24 Fail to win | 26 Sacred hymn | 29 Legal suit | 38 Exclusiveness |
| 31 Part of a mine shaft | 35 Congregation | 37 Silly laugh | 41 Linen tape or thread |
| 39 — es Salaam, Tanzania | 40 Dark-bodied terns | 42 Japanese statesman | 44 Jungle jaunt |
| 43 Gran beard | 45 Exalted | 47 Mother of Cadiz | 46 Big — |
| 48 Standing | 50 Malicious looks | 51 Abandon from food | 49 Bring into harmony |
| 53 Rawboned | 55 State of NW India | 58 Church council site | 52 Friend, in Granada |
| 60 Favorite | 63 Crafty plotting | 65 More in the open | 54 Related on the mother's side |
| 67 Industrious | 68 Play a flute | 69 GI address | 55 Popular opera |
| 70 Barcelona bravos | | | 56 Small cut |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

NORA TIGER PALE
JLEX UNITE ARON
VANESSA REDGRAVE
EVE ACID EASTER
AFAR PELE
LAWMAN COMA MID
OSIER CLUE PONE
GEORICHARDWICKER
KATE HERS ETHER
ETM CASK FACADE
FONT DASH
ACTION SIRE DOT
SHIRLEY MACLAINE
PIONS LIGNE COCA
SWAT SAGAS TIREX

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:
♠K8743 ♥985 ♦J3 ♣K104

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:
♠AQ5 ♥7 ♦AJ4 ♣AK9843

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ ?

What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠AKQ1076 ♥AK5 ♦AQ ♣83

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ ?

What do you bid now?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:
♠K873 ♥QJ8 ♦962 ♣QJ7

Partner opens the bidding with one

no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:
♠Q92 ♥KQJ109 ♦A762 ♣6

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♥ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠107 ♥KJ4 ♦AK9642 ♣Q6

The bidding has proceeded:

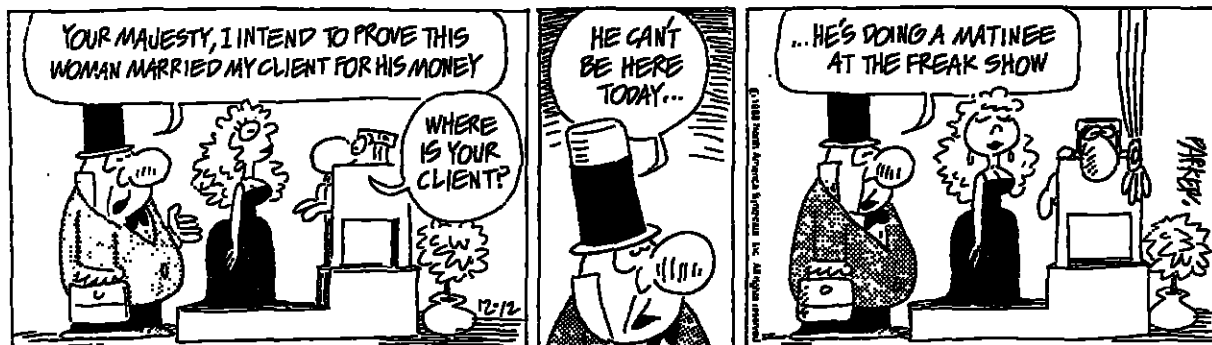
South West North East

1 ♦ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

What do you bid now?

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



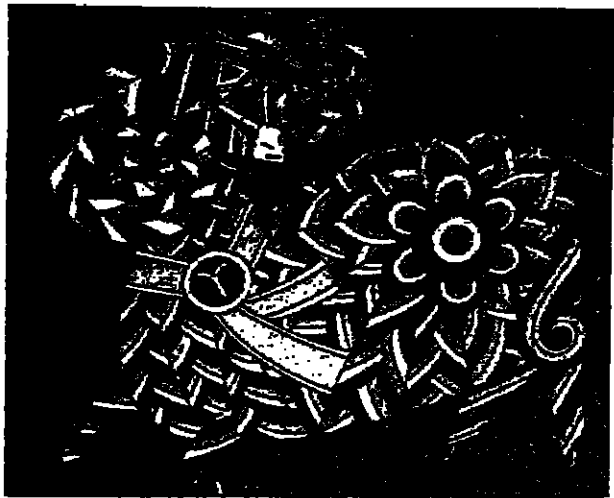
YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</p> <p>You will feel better able to get on with things. An acquaintance of yours is turning into something of a nuisance. You should avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Be courteous.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to get on with things. You should avoid doing anything you know your partner would not agree with. Think less of yourself, more of others. Be meticulous.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>Venus' more favourable influence will help you to be more at peace with yourself. Something you have been learning will suddenly fall into place. You should make sure you keep your expenditure within limits. Be benevolent.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)</p> <p>You should try not to become involved in something that is really no concern of yours. You will have to make sure your enthusiasm is not misdirected. Listen to what others are saying and take note. Be moderate.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Make sure you treat a cold or similar complaint carefully or it might turn into something much worse. The prospects are good only if you must work hard. You should try to be a little more patient. Be conscientious.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</p> <p>Avoid making a nuisance of yourself. Something you have been hoping for will not now happen. You should not allow some secondary matter to preoccupy you. Be less insistent.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>The Moon's better influence will help you to resolve a difference of opinion. You will feel more like your old self. Something you are doing will succeed beyond your expectations. Be forgiving.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You should not try to do too many things all at once. You are all too liable to delude yourself. You will have something to be really pleased about. Be tactful.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</p> <p>Mars' influence will help you to preserve your independence. However, you must beware of doing anything rash. Make sure you eat a healthy diet. Be punctual.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</p> <p>Do not permit work to consume too much of your leisure time. You should not try to do more than you have time and energy for. However that does not mean just allowing things to happen. Be hospitable.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</p> <p>A good idea of yours will help you to deal with a persistent problem. You should make sure you do not forget a promise you have made. Do not drive faster than you are allowed to. Be less vain.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</p> <p>You should keep your wits rather more about you. A cold or other infection should not be neglected. You will feel more sure of yourself. Be considerate.</p>

What is in store for you in 1989

Aries

Mar 21 — April 20



YOU have been rather disoriented in your career direction for quite a long time now, and let's face it, it has hurt you.

You have so much courage, and it would be a very rare Aries who gave up. So you kept on examining the prospects, looking at the ads, writing for interviews, meanwhile slogging along (which doesn't suit your "do-it-now-do-it-fast" temperament trying to make the best of what you've got.

Once this niche too seemed to promise more, and you can't quite analyse when it all tarnished and why. For many Aries alas there is even the possibility that in some way you have been deceived or cheated in a career niche which was literally promoted as more your style than it actually is.

With Neptune the planetary principle of muddling and confusion still at the career end of your map, one can't believe in a genuine change here yet. But you can look forward to salary rise or improved income. And although with Saturn now joining Neptune you will have to continue working hard or even harder than you have been, at last you will be picked out, noticed, earmarked for promotion, even though still in an area that is not truly you.

This will indeed be a speedier year for you than last. Mars is your Ruler, an indicator of the type of roads you are travelling, and this year he literally whizzes along, making much better time than usual.

You will find yourself doing less sighing, gritting of teeth and pacing up and down in a habitat that somehow seems too small to contain your energy.

Okay, you will be less restless in 1989; but the far horizon will not look any more inviting, at least not just yet. You cannot yet see very far ahead, and you will continue to feel rather shut in and enclosed.

Saturn the constrictor is still sitting at the top of your zodiacal chart, sitting there almost like the lid on your box. There will be the occasional wild invitation to what seems like an escape, for Uranus the great bender of the rules is on hand also.

Throughout the year, you will feel you are the centre of their giant tussle — Uranus the liberator, Saturn closing in again.

You have plenty of light-hearted Jupiter/Venus phases this year, so perhaps the central tussle about your freedom and your career horizons will begin to seem familiar and more easily handled.

The hurt ahead

However, with you there is a slight tendency to remain very hurt when misunderstood — as all your natural instincts are of the open and outgoing variety. You despise "brooding" when hurt, however.

So you may just simply suffer without acknowledging the fact — even to yourself.

This, though, does not stop the suffering. In order to deal with it and come through to the other side of it, do admit that the hurt exists — you are unlikely to do so in the "whining" way that so makes you cringe.

Say plainly that your intentions were altogether different, and that somewhere along the line it's the wrong end of the stick that has been seized.

Your usual tactics are to overwork, take on all the overtime that can be fitted in, and to portray yourself to others as jolly, gregarious and whimsical on the outside. But how can the jolliness reach through to the inside when all that hurt is still burning there?

I am making it sound a grim year, I know, but it will be far more genuinely cheerful if you partly reject the admirable but rather-too-favourite Aries myths... i.e. the stiff upper lip and the blustering bonhomie.

They are good myths in their brave way, they have stood you in good stead in the past and in future years they will do so again.

Cash matters

But this year and next, Saturn and Capricorn are in the driver's seat with all the dourness of command and insistence on strict truth, even if it is gloomy truth, that this entails.

Until mid-March, Jupiter the luck-bringer is in your financial sector. Attend then to your cash concerns. They will need very little attention, of the nuts-and-bolts type that is. You may however be able now to invest or expand money-wise, and this is on the whole very much the time to do so with success.

From March till the end of July, luck lies for you in neighbourhood concerns, in schools and schooling, and in vehicles and transport in general! With Jupiter here for you, now is the time to become a school governor, to complete a thesis or publish short stories or essays, or to work in a garage!

You will enjoy many, many, happy surprises in your immediate environment in these months. The streets around your home turn out to be full of fascinating characters, usually routine news opens up vistas, and you probably acquire an exciting vehicle.

From August 1st and on throughout the remainder of 1989, Jupiter is in your home arena. For anyone this is good news, of course. For you, particularly so.

Pain barrier

You have waded through a good deal of recent pain and strain in your home life or family life... and Jupiter here now for so long will do a lot to help expunge this state of affairs. There will be far more mutual understanding and gaiety here, without anyone having to make much effort at all.

Old scores and grudges will just fade away, perhaps helped on by a timely word when you are already feeling fine. With Jupiter, thank heavens, there is no need to grimly manufacture reconciliations and apologies. Everyone eventually becomes relaxed and in the end just sort of lets go.

On a business level, obviously, this is not quite such a desirable effect.

So if you decide to choose now to have work done in your home, however good you feel about your builder or employees, make sure that they don't just "relax and let go" while they're supposed to be completing your work.

Insist on genuine contracts and schedules, don't be lax handing out the money, don't hand out too much in advance. This is true of the housekeeping money too.

And don't be tempted to give teenagers more pocket money than is necessary — even at a happy time like this: Jupiter may lead to excesses you'd later be shocked by.

In general though, you'll agree this is a splendid bonus in your year — and you'll be delighted to know it continues through well into 1990 as well.

Taurus

(April 21 — May 21)



THE heavy mob — Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune lined up in Capricorn, frightening almost everyone in sight, hold few terrors for somebody like you.

Because Neptune the great mystic already there for some years (now newly joined by Saturn and Uranus) in your area of ideals and aspirations, you have now formed quite an extensive philosophy.

Saturn will now firm up the details of this, enabling you to make due use of it here and now in the material world. It is said in astrology that we must always be careful of what we want, because when Saturn touches Neptune we'll get it.

It is more than likely that you will be making major forays now to far-flung places, or that visitors from unfamiliar cultures will be very much in evidence on your guest-list.

Ever-changing you

There remains the problematic Pluto in your area of partnerships. What a challenge. For the next five years you are being slowly but surely transformed — so that your closest friends are beginning to mutter, saying that they hardly recognise you for the same individual. This won't suit some of them that's for sure. They are likely to be the ones who were prone to take advantage of you, or to fail to see your viewpoint unless it was waved at them on a banner.

It is not that you are becoming more aggressive, Pluto is far too subtle for that, and your own ruler Venus far too amiable.

It is not that you are becoming sneaky either. Or you are an un-typical Taurus, if so. You belong in the Venus family, and on the rare occasions Venus is at all underhanded, it is only to promote general good times and the welfare of all.

It is simply that you are not soft at the edges any more, you are a harder, leaner, hungrier version! (That is spiritually speaking, you are. In the flesh, in the mirror, with Jupiter the great expander in your own sign currently, you may well be seeing a rounder Taurus.)

You have already recently taken on some formidable adversaries, and probably bested them with a casual judo twist. You won't stand for shoddiness, or shoddy motives, in your present mood.

Your attitude to your nearest and best beloved has changed also. They treat you with more care and respect now, don't they? I'd even go so far as to bet even your favourite love-story authors have changed.

Fun, frivolity and fans

Hand in hand with this "new you," Jupiter in Taurus is

Gemini

(May 22 — Jun 21)



THE good news is Jupiter is back in Gemini once again. The other good news for 1989 is Saturn and Uranus have moved out of your way, leaving you much freer to enjoy Jupiter in Gemini than you were last year.

Of course Saturn and Uranus have not actually melted away out of the sky completely. But instead of sitting there across the zodiac from you, blatantly opposing you and pulling faces, they have been at last made to move along. They are in a far less obtrusive position now, from whence they can only get anywhere near you with difficulty.

Still, it is worth looking just for a little while at their new niche in your zodiacal map.

Gemini likes to go to others for support, in the nicest way you just don't terribly enjoy going it alone, though with your brain and enthusiasm of course it's not as if you can't do so. It's not that you stick around with just one person or one set or circle, of course, your talents are too far-ranging for that.

No one set-up could ever satisfy somebody like you. You are master of several skills, dilettante in many. Obviously, you need an almost never ending supply of people to surround you! Preferably people with good minds, or witty, or in any way unusual or puzzling (you will stick around to crack a puzzle) or rewarding to know.

Also, Gemini delights in picking other people's brains because it's such fun. Gemini is not generally the type of person likely to pass off another's idea as his own, but slogging away alone on an idea or project is not Gemini's idea of cakes and ale.

Don't rely on others

Well, this year, Gemini, don't be at all surprised if you discover there is not one there when you need them... in the sense of a kindred brain to pick, someone with bright ideas to swap. You can't count on other's support as usual. That's all. Nothing terrible. But it will seem a bit more grey to a Gemini than it might to other signs of the zodiac.

You own ideas are as great as ever, and probably better, for Jupiter in your own sign will enhance everything that is already larger than life in your nature.

Your may put on weight, too. Jupiter really does expand one. You will be showered with opportunities, nay, insistence, that you take the time to indulge yourself — in temptation upon temptation. You'll be talking all the way, and emerge at the end without noticing what happened as much as what was said.

bringing you fun, frivolity, fans. Next stop, finance — that's from mid-March on, when Jupiter moves into your money sector.

Through from then till the end of July, that's the time par excellence for you to make money from your communication skills. Lecture, teach. Do a degree which will bring improved income. Type. Become a secretary to a millionaire.

Jupiter in August, then moves on into Cancer, an especially warm and reassuring sign for you. Jupiter stays here for the rest of the year and well beyond. Your friendships and family concerns blossom then, and this is particularly true of your relationship with sisters or brothers, or indeed with any students you may have on a formal or informal basis.

And if you are a student yourself, fellow-pupils are good news for you. Also you'll find a magnificent rapport with at least one teacher, lecture, guide or mentor.

Because Cancer is such a home-and-hearth oriented sign, and because you yourself have such a joy in security and stability as well as in the occasional adventure, this long stay of Jupiter the luck bringer in Cancer will turn you almost into a sort of honorary Cancerian. So that like Cancerians with Jupiter in the sign onwards from August, or like Arians with Jupiter in their area of home and family, you will be much blessed in terms of home life.

That rocking chair by the hearth, is now a magnet for many wonderful gifts from Jupiter. You in turn will be feeling generous — there'll be plenty to give — but remember not to take risks by signing money or goods away without safeguards. Don't take on credit agreements in too great abundance, and don't go for an over-ambitious second mortgage!

Also, with Neptune the mystifier still at the peak of your zodiacal chart, don't let your teenagers or your employees (especially people working in your home — for your home — for you) get their hands on too much cash at once before it's actually been earned, and don't trust strangers in your home if they give you even the slightest sense of unease.

Jupiter-prompted generosity can turn out to be over the top, over-confident, almost in a sense arrogance. If others try to warn you about anything, don't just turn a deaf ear in 1989.

This year is pretty much a high for you. But objective onlookers may be able to see where you can store up good things for yourself — or sow the seeds of future worry you really don't need.

With all this home-front home-fires benefit you get the bonus of the school/college/education bias also.

So many types of opportunities, then, to stumble across the nicest kinds of luck or even to find it simply arriving without your having to stir far afield at all.

It must be added that the home front, though, cannot — and will not — be unmitigated sweetness and light throughout the year ahead.

The entertainers

Jupiter will undoubtedly bring benefits, treats and an amicable atmosphere to the home, and there may be more entertaining in your home of the least stressful kind, and many invitations to other's homes where you and yours will be made one of the family.

Still, your home area continues also to be challenged by the ubiquitous Pluto.

And just as Plutonian energy has been at work transforming you and your image, and the way other people around see you, so also the same Plutonian transformation cannot help but be at work on your homelife.

This, too, may have been noted by you and others in your intimate circle. It may well be that fools are not suffered now gladly in your home, if ever they were; you might feel there is less tolerance or overall hospitality there. This could have obscurely troubled you, even while perhaps at the same time you endorsed it.

There may even have been an old family secret brought to light — this is the kind of thing Pluto does, and it must be said that amid the stress such explosions bring, there is when the dust settles a sense of renewed truth and naked honesty. Pluto is a sort of mega-full Moon in that way. Let's not think about Pluto now, as we set out on the pathways and by-ways of 1989. Let's think about Jupiter!

There will be almost no stopping your flow of brilliance in 1989, particularly from March through to August, and only a fool would try to get in your way.

Anyone who stays around a Gemini this year (and it'll be active work to keep up with the pace) should carry a notepad and pen or tape recorder, so as not to miss the verbal gems and creative spark, as said Gemini will be too engrossed enjoying the scene to keep track of all the bon mots and pearls of wisdom.

Financial times

From August 1, Jupiter concentrates on your financial sector — bringing you improved cashflow, plenty of economic aid — and again, temptation after temptation.

This time it appears in the form of the wily, people attracted by your bankable ideas and, let's face it, by your healthy improved bank balance.

"Come in on such and such a scheme," they'll suggest, "Oh and bring a little of your cash with you..."

"We'll pay big for those ideas of yours. But not just yet..."

Find the time to consult with a Taurus, a Capricorn or a Virgo who is on your side. They're unlikely to advise you to let your ideas or assets go, whatever the promises. But then when all is said and done, remember also the bottom line: that this year you're on your own. Do you want to find yourself on your own with these new partners?

However, your sheer enthusiasm is not without its own in-built antenna.

If it's a project you simply can't resist, or if it involves a companionship of a high calibre, then go for it. No Gemini needs an astrologer to tell them that.

Your quick, clever, inventive Ruler Mercury is strong this June and then again in October. This provides you with that little bit extra, that degree of acumen and the ability to catch a signal almost before it has been sent.

The pace will be fast for you during those months in particular. But nevertheless, if you possibly can find the time, take a breather and just really lay all your cards out on the table — but keep them to yourself.

Mull over the pros and cons of whatever scheme is afoot. Make your choices, go for your options. You have a trigger-fine ability to make a snap decision, it's true; but don't allow yourself to be hurried along if you don't want to be. Those are the months when above all you can call on your sense of intuition.

Your favourite things

Blessed for you Gemini in 1989 are some of your 'favourite things' — learning, teaching, languages; short stories, magazines, editing, publishing, word processing; partying, inventing, discovering; bicycling, sports, getting around and about, playing frisbee with the neighbourhood kids, rollerskating, a dishy new car.

Also look out for the bargains, shopping, gossip, publicity. Chance encounters. Entertaining, being entertained.

About romance itself, it's hard to tell you with any certainty. Lightning may strike once or twice, but not on a major scale.

You won't be short of companions in 1989. They will start to see plenty in you to intrigue and admire, more than recently, in fact, when you were in the midst of the Saturn doldrums. You will be pleased with the company you keep — and there'll be plenty of it, too. There need be no sense of solitude.

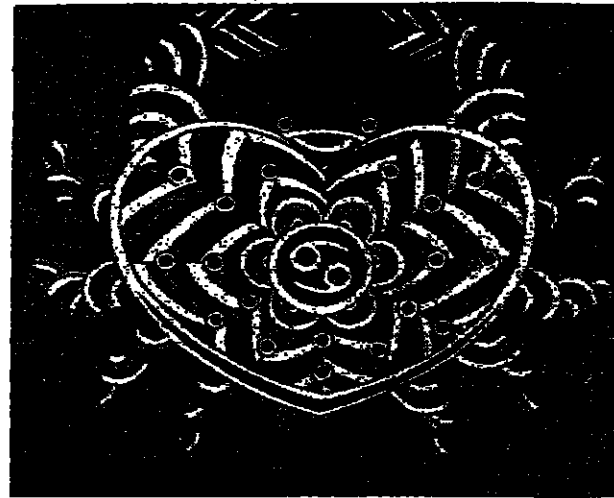
But it doesn't honestly look like a big Gemini romance in store this year — this is the year with more of an emphasis on you than on partnerships as such.

If you do however decide to take the plunge this year, and that could be into flat-sharing with someone nice as there is such emphasis later on home concerns for everyone, whatever sign they are, with Jupiter in Cancer from August 1 on — then that too does indeed appear to be a charming arrangement; rather cosy, yet carefree, and with money coming in to ease the housekeeping even though it goes out again almost as fast.

Happy 1989, Gemini.

Cancer

(Jun 22 — Jul 23)



CANCERIANs begin 1989 with Jupiter the luck bringer in the zodiacal area of friendships and society. Here lies the world of politics, for instance. If you have any such ambitions, January through to mid-March is indeed a time of golden opportunities.

Similarly, it is a team time.

Any involvements you have with clubs, regular meetings and gatherings of like-minded folk with any particular aim in view besides the pleasure of each other's company; sports if these involve a team rather than going it as loner; these are the sorts of activities you can expect to expand for you.

Then, from mid-March right through to the end of July, the luck bringer is positioned in Gemini, and apart from the undoubted fact that there will be more emphasis in society in general on words, verbiage and ephemera it is rather difficult to pinpoint what will come of it for Cancerians in particular.

This is because the zodiacal area 'then lucky' (March-July) for Cancerians is the whole shebang of whatever is going on in the wings, behind the scenes, and as yet undiscovered to said Cancerian.

It is the phase when all sorts of things are planned for by others but they haven't quite got around to notifying us yet.

In other words, it is our darkside of the moon: and when a benefic planet such as Venus or (as now March-July 1989) Jupiter is occupying that part of our map, then good things are gently simmering up for us without our knowledge.

March, April, May, June and July in '88, was another such consolidating phase for Cancerians, without Cancerians themselves being entirely in the picture about it all.

Look ahead

Looking back on that time now, can you as yet defect which seeds were sowing, which shoots of success were beginning to spring up — of which you were quite ignorant then?

Let's leave Luck gently burgeoning away there for the time being. Let's take a look at where the heavy mob — Saturn, Uranus, Neptune — are placed for Cancerians in 1989.

Neptune for a long time now has been fudging the issue for you positioned as it is in your area of partnerships.

Neptune here has made it almost impossible for you to get to grips with many a simple, basic transaction. You have also been literally misunderstood by partners, a spouse or in business matters. You have tried to speak as clearly and simply as humanly possible. You have put facts in writing and kept photocopies.

You have however mislaid files even when kept, as you thought, meticulously. And as far as others were concerned, you might as well have been speaking an exotic foreign language. Persistently they only heard what they wanted to hear, not what you actually said.

Well, this inspiring state of affairs continues, for Neptune continues in Capricorn.

What can Cancerians do to alleviate all this somewhat? Go on keeping the files! Be prepared to spell details out over and over. Be patient; try not to feel it's all a personal plot against you, though it must be said that these conditions, as they linger on do promote incipient paranoia.

What is it all about, what good does Neptune do? All planetary phases are apparently painful (except, it must be said, where illness or disease are concerned) and Neptune transforms our lives by wrapping us in mist, a mist very often shot through with rainbows it must be added. We are effectively isolated from ordinary cause and effect. We feel powerless, which is, funny enough, after a while a Good Thing. Our talents pass into other areas: into deeper perceptions, for instance, as we struggle to make more sense of what happens, so more happens for us to make sense of.

Anyway, that's Neptune. Cancerians are getting used to Neptune which has now been joined by Saturn and Uranus. Saturn will do a lot to firm up some of what Neptune has made so soggy. And Uranus will bring surprises and adventures.

Get serious

As these major planets affect Cancerian partnerships, spouses, live-in lovers or flat-mates, business partners will now take Cancerians more seriously (Saturn is serious). But will also jump in and out of Cancerians' lives like jack-in-the-boxes (Uranus promotes hellos and goodbyes and not much else in between).

Not such a bad scenario, is it? Of course, Saturn does scorch and contract. There will be a feeling of tightening the belt, of doing without certain comforts. Things will be less cosy in the partnership area. But then, Jupiter balances that out for you by bringing expansion, cosiness and comfort in the area of you alone, you and your own individuality.

From the very start of August, Jupiter the luck-bringer is in Cancer.

The luck-bringer in fact remains in your own sign right through to August 1990 — much longer than Jupiter usually remains in a sign all in one go.

Congratulations. You are the Jupiter jackpot. So all right then, what does it feel like having Jupiter in your own sign?

There is a principle of expansion on that sign. You may put on weight! Your image in the mirror, in others' eyes is brighter, warmer.

You take life as it comes more light-heartedly, you are in some ways on holiday, circumstances combine to "let you off" even when you reasonably expect a hassle or a chore.

The home front

Because Cancerians care about their homes and about domestic details, these aspects will benefit. But because Jupiter expands, you could have to be aware of temptation to collect too much clutter in your everyday environment, be "unable to resist" bargains and find you are spending too much on bargains!

You'll be feeling generous, you'll want to see others happy so you may be tempted to trust others without reason, to give to others what they may misuse.

As Neptune (which "rules" drugs and alcohol) is involved so closely in your chart these days, do be careful what you let teenagers in your circle have in the way of money or unsupervised leisure time.

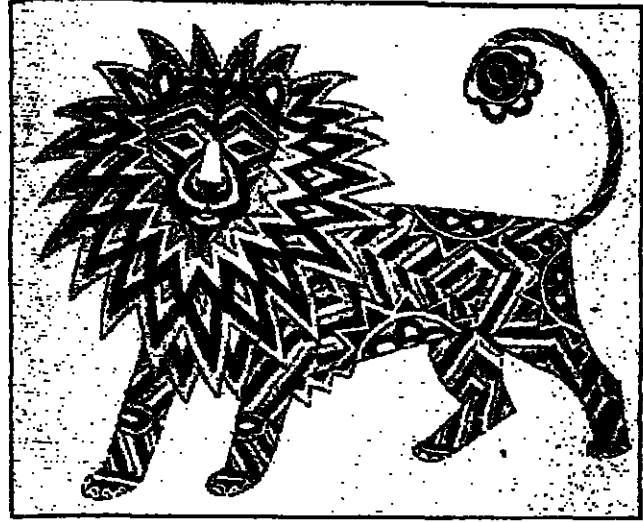
Try not to give away money in advance for goods or services which may then be delayed in arriving.

If you don't let Jupiter tempt you into biting off more than anyone could chew, but yet take full advantage of all the positive opportunities and pleasant situations Jupiter brings, you'll be enjoying a very formative 1989.

What is in store for you in 1989

Leo

(Jul 24 — Aug 23)



DESPITE some happy phases when Venus helped out, your last couple of years have been rather gloomy in one of your pet areas — that of fun and partying! In other words, you just haven't had enough of this sort of thing, and even the partying you have had seemed rather grim and graceless in the main, with more in it for fellow partygoers than for you.

You just kept hanging on in there, hoping it would all turn out to be once more as you remembered fun should be.

What was wrong, of course, was Saturn in your zodiacal area of romance and meritment — Saturn is not a renowned merry-maker, and with him there no wonder the party hats didn't do much for anyone's joie de vivre.

Happy times are here again: Saturn has moved up and on, into an area of your zodiacal map which suits this planetary taskmaster better.

This is your area of work and routine. Okay, well may you groan. With him there, you are going to work hard — at something. At your own health, if you balk at other serious employment.

Leos who have already been hardworking will be driven less relentlessly. I know, it sounds quite anthropomorphic of astrologers to think Saturn notices how hard we've tried or not. (Anthropomorphic is what Walt Disney did to birds and furry beasts, and what astrologers are accused of doing to vast planets — personalising them.)

What it may be, according to Jung, is that Saturn symbolises or coincides with our own inner drives to get things done, to form and shape our schedules, to discipline ourselves.

That inner part of us is quite relentless. We cannot finally pull any wool over its eyes, because they are our own eyes, and we know how hard we've been trying.

Anyway, it's better surely to have Saturn discipline in our work area than in our fun area.

All work and all play

Now Leo can work hard and play hard. That's a major trend of your 1989.

Don't wait for the Saturnian energies to catch up on you, rope and brand you by main force. Co-operate just a little, bend with the prevailing breeze — sketch out an itinerary on the work front, keep files and a diary if you are one of the many Leos who hate to bother with the minutiae of life.

There will be plenty of surprises to keep Saturn from imposing dullness on your work regimen throughout this year.

Uranus is there, too, and this means job offers received only to be cancelled or postponed. Or you love a job, until one lunch-break you find you've just walked out never to return: something better came up, or you were sacked but no one knows why, or you were suddenly tested just too far. Uranus often acts without due warning. There may be company closures, to the astonishment of a work force who had no idea a take-over was in the wind. Because Neptune is also here to complete the triple whammy, there may be bankruptcy or lost documents or misunderstandings, delays, strikes.

Career into '89

If you have special vocational or career ambitions or ideals, do take advantage of Jupiter the luck-bringer in your career area (this is different from your routine work sector) — the dates are January through to mid-March.

If there is a sort of work you've always wanted to do but have been put off going for, for instance, do please explore the possibilities thoroughly in January, February, March.

The whole set-up may have changed since you were last investigating it. Your skills or fresh experience may now be needed there. The world turns, times change, new executives with new priorities replace those who originally turned down your application. Jupiter at the top of your zodiacal map, where your vocation and your ambition are located, is too good to miss. At least write a few letters, make a call or two, find out the names of executives in your chosen field. Jupiter imbues with an aura of easygoing confidence, and makes us subtly more attractive than usual. In your case in 1989 this Jupiterian attraction applies to you in your career idealism. Make use of it, that's what it's there for.

Mid-March through to late July, Jupiter moves on into your sector of friendships, any clubs or societies you belong to or teams you are on. Your friendships at this time will be more amusing and entertaining than usual. Many more people will be moving in and out of your life in a gabbie of gossip, wit and maybe publicity (this sector of your chart is Gemini, which is to do with words, media and occasionally headlines).

August through to the end of 1989 and beyond, Jupiter the luck-bringer is posited in your area of behind the scenes activity, so whatever is being planned for your future by others, you may not yet be told; however, it involves expanded interests.

For you, this is a negative and receptive area and rather unconscious. If you have vivid and unsettling dreams at this time, just take note of them, keep a dream diary by your bed perhaps to scribble dreams into as you wake.

You may even opt for solitude, in spite of the invitations and friendships also on offer: you may choose to withdraw for a time, to examine yourself and discover what makes you tick now as we near the 1990s.

Lions beware

One warning. Pluto remains in your area of the home-base. Don't tolerate gate-crashers, be cautious with strangers, keep track of your keys, a chain on your door before you open it.

These are sensible measures for anyone, man or woman, so I am not being alarmist. At this time, Pluto's symbolism is the stranger in the alley, the intruder at the door. But if you avoid the alley and monitor the door, that symbolism doesn't get a look in. Pluto can also be someone in your home or family trying to control you, or your trying to control them (these things can work in subtle ways, not always entirely apparent.)

At times we invite others to enter our lives and dwell with us. They may remind us of a parent or sibling we feel we failed with: we 'need' to feel we can slug it out again so it will get to feel like it's all a bit more fair. If this is what some Leos are doing in a home situation now, or if someone is in your home and doing much the same to you, then it is best to know the situation for what it is.

And where Pluto is concerned, play fair. Pluto doesn't like cheating. With Pluto, be as passionate as you like but not petty.

All this cases off, anyway, when Venus waters Pluto down: March, kinder times: August, most of October, and November too.

Virgo

(Aug 24 — Sep 23)



A STRANGE new feeling will be creeping agreeably up on you all year, and soon you will dare to put a name to it: a sense of security in your home base.

For longer than you care to remember, there has been no true sense of belonging where you were placed.

A parent or parental figure may even have been missing for you at an age when you still felt you needed them.

When we are older, we expect to get along without much in the way of parenting, but Neptune has made an untimely loss of it for all too many younger Virgos.

Then there were all sorts of stringent economies necessary at home for you, and probably sudden moves as well in the last couple of years.

As soon as you settled down somewhere, you had the uneasy expectation of possibly having to up sticks again.

Now Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have pulled-out of your zodiacal arena of home and roots.

With that lot out of the way, you have a chance to feel like a real Virgo again at last — whatever that feels like!

In fact, it's been so long since you were able to relax at home without Neptune lurking around misting up the windows and making fog of the mortgage repayments, you've pretty well forgotten how it does indeed feel to be a happy Virgo happily at home.

Meanwhile, before you relax too much, the horror trio has moved on into another party of your personal map — where to?

A less crucial angle, thank heavens. Still, they haven't disappeared entirely.

They will see to it that your romantic life is strange, challenging and demanding this year. Your usual attitude on the subject of romance is that it should be both sensuous and sensible. You don't like chilly lovers, hard-to-get games, or endless flirting. On the other hand, neither do you like graceless inelegance!

Strange love

You will find in 1989, however, that love takes an unfamiliar guise.

Someone, perhaps, who just is not your usual 'type' may appear to be suddenly irresistible. Neptune can bring into one's life the most idealistic — and yet unrealistic — sort of love.

Under Neptune, we can feel we are tremendously necessary, to someone who is busy ruining their life quite efficiently on their own: perhaps they are taking drugs or too much booze, and Neptune leads us to believe we can become the Rescuer.

This is fine, so long as everyone concerned enjoys what is going on — for the feeling of submission to a higher, purer fate

Libra

(Sep 24 — Oct 23)



YOU have been experiencing a certain learning phase through 1988, admittedly along with a certain amount of correspondent frustration — according to how difficult the learning process has proved to be for you.

It is more than likely that you have actually tackled a completely new subject and studied it quite seriously over the last year, perhaps going back to college or choosing to enter the Open University. And all through 1988, it was probably obscure to those around you (and indeed to you) why exactly you were driven to put yourself through this apparently needless struggle in addition to the ubiquitous chores of everyday life. What were you hoping to gain from it in real terms? Where was the profit when it all looked very much like loss — of time and mental resources at least. Well, now in 1989 we see the other side of the coin — Jupiter the Major Benefic (as the ancients called this planet) demonstrates it clearly to us.

For it was the presence of Saturn the Task-master in your zodiacal area of learning that pushed and pressed you to find your way in a new subject, to fit a new string to your bow. And this year Jupiter can make happy use of that very fresh skill for you.

At first, in the spring and the summer of 1989, your talent simply brings you fulfillment and satisfaction (in January, February or March, too, you may be welcomed into a business partnership designed around exercising this particular talent or something very like it).

Then, from the last day of July onwards, with Jupiter moved up to the zodiacal area where your career and ambitions are located, it would appear that you find yourself in an extremely good position to make money from your newly-acquired expertise.

Beware the home front

Meanwhile, another new event this year: your home front becomes more important and demands your attention.

You may have to identify a problem in the structure or maintenance of your home — the roof, the plumbing, alas, there is something wrong in the happy home and even identifying it proves to be quite a task. It may well appear to be one problem when all along it is really something else. Confusion reigns for Neptune the mystifier is here.

Another possibility for less than domestic bliss is an unwelcome guest under your roof — perhaps someone who just won't go, although they say the reason for staying is that they can't

than we have ever known is quite magnificent under Neptunian influences.

But don't begin to be drawn down into whatever vortex lies below the dreamy, rainbow-coloured, Neptunian surfaces.

Don't sleep-walk, as it were, down paths you would never have travelled alone — only to find that getting out again is a whole lot more difficult than drifting in.

The presence of Saturn alongside will make you take it all that much more seriously, and add to your sense of duty and involvement.

Saturn being such a genuinely work-oriented influence may also enable you to effect some true changes on your beloved's behalf (and they will do the same for you) but still, don't get in too deep.

Save the children

This would-be-selfless experience may, on the other hand, be to do with a child who really is in need, but who must be enabled to begin standing on their own feet.

Under a series of planetary influences like these, you may be a marvellous social worker with young people.

In fact you will have a particular pattern of empathy with children and young people throughout the whole of 1989.

Until mid-March, Jupiter the luck-bringer brings you freedom — to travel, or to explore further reaches of thought and philosophy.

This is traditionally the time to publish your thoughts, too so look out that thesis of yours, or the letters to the newspaper about local issues, or whatever it is that has been lying dormant waiting for discovery.

Now is the time when your thoughts should be able to reach a wide audience.

From March right through to the end of July, Jupiter puts a glowing spotlight on your career and ambitions.

Again, if you have ever had publishing aspirations, now could well be your moment to involve yourself in some way in that world.

Virgo is a very verbal sign, and these particular skills of yours, your word skills, are now very much to the fore.

Perhaps this is your time to acquire a word processor, if you don't have one. Or to brush up on secretarial skills? Invent a board game and then market it, get paid for some research work, produce a play.

As Jupiter moves from August 1st into your area of friendships, community concerns and group activities, this theme continues.

Be an activist

Started now are such concerns as working for the common good in a team, perhaps, or on a telephone switchboard!

Getting yourself into politics. Or into a religious community. You get the picture?

Your fellow man/woman, an involvement in the very society you live within, these are your themes for late summer and right through to Christmas 1989.

With a profound emphasis on Earth for you this year, you as an Earth sign yourself will find much more sense and less nonsense in the way things turn out.

Even Uranus, the planetary principle of sudden surprises and twists and turns, is now in an Earth sign. This makes a change from painfully challenging you in hard-to-get-to-grips-with Fire, as in recent years.

This new stability means in real terms that when arrangements begin or terminate this year, whether you like the situation or hate it, at least you can understand others' reasons for making it be that way.

You won't be shaking your head in stunned bewilderment any more, muttering "I just don't know how they make that one out..."

In consequence, your nervous system and health can benefit. Rashers and insomnia, those Virgoan bugbears, will be much more a thing of the past.

Your surrounding landscape is now going to be much more the way you would have painted it yourself, if you had been allowed to!

leave ("they need you, they've nowhere else"). Or this may signal the end of your own stay under another person's roof; if you share with a relative or friend, for instance, this year or next may see your departure and the parting of the ways.

You are less dependent these days on material security or comfort. You have had Pluto the transformer in your zodiacal area of cash and resources since 1984 now. At first there seemed to be almost a breakdown of security for you in quite severe ways, maybe even as dire threat as bankruptcy. Events have subsequently shown that you are not doomed to live out of a suitcase, and looking on the positive side of things, you have discovered your own flexibility and your ability to live thriftyly when you must.

Cash in on good sense

With Jupiter in friendly Taurus and Gemini throughout spring and summer, and then moving up to the top of your chart to spotlight your career, it is unlikely you will suffer any serious cash shortage. Still, with Saturn and Neptune in your homebase, you're going to be glad of your improved financial ability to roll with the punches.

For, in some way, your home will be milking your resources; you will have to spend more than you expected and bargained for there this year. So bear that in mind when the time comes to plan the budget.

With Neptune here particularly, do try to make sure you have got as much cut and dried as you possibly can in the way of a written contract, if you have work done in your home. Or follow the rules of good common sense and do keep documentation properly on file if you need to show records at any time or gain planning permission.

If buying or selling property now, keep track of each step for your own peace of mind. There is just the possibility that someone somewhere along the line may talk about arbitration, and if it is known that you have all the correct evidence readily to hand, others may back off and leave you alone in peace without pushing matters further.

Venus, your personal ruler and protector, seems to be in the right place at the right time for you for most of the year anyway, beginning as early as January right there in your home base so that most of the sting is drawn from Neptune and Saturn also residing there.

A fine romance

Venus ensures activity on the romance front throughout your February, and whatever is begun for you then is very happily reinforced in May when Venus, Jupiter and the great Sun itself are all beaming on you.

June continues this happy theme, and July especially sees good things in store for Librans, almost certainly romantically strong, since the Sun then is joined in Leo by both of the passion planets, Mars and Venus.

Then from August 18th, Venus is in your own sign. It is always an important time in love for you when your ruling planet is in Libra. Throughout September, the presence of Mercury (the planet which governs communication) also in Libra indicates there will be much significant discussion and dialogue on either a romantic or creative topic.

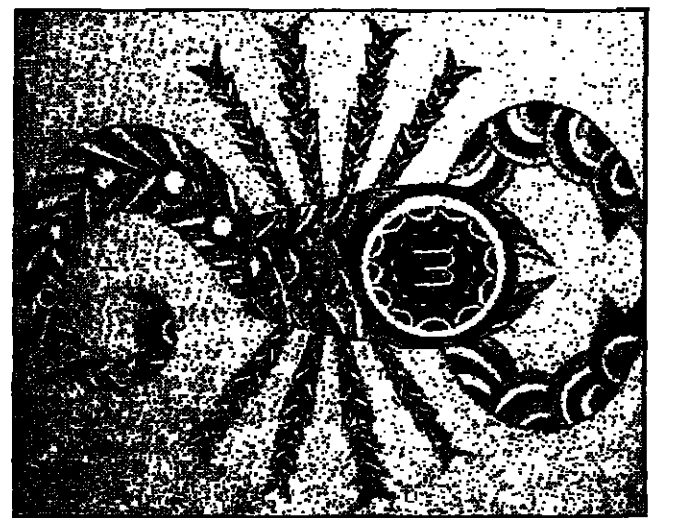
In October, you are lucky yet again. The planets are on your side with the Sun and Mercury continuing in Libra, and powerful Mars also in Libra, all through the month — receiving added sparkle from protective Venus now in Sagittarius, another favourable placement.

With such a glowing track record in 1989 it is hardly surprising that Venus returns to your home base in November, well before you might ordinarily have expected to have been accorded this honour. Here again she will act to nullify much of the bleak action of Saturn and Neptune there. Someone up there is surely looking after you.

Then arrives December — and all again is healthy romantically, especially from the 18th onwards, when Mars jumps into fiery Sagittarius and brings benefits to Venus, returning to your zodiacal area of romance and repeating February's passionate conditions.

Scorpio

(Oct 24 — Nov 22)



DO you want the good news, or the good news? Perhaps the best news has to be that the unwelcome combination of Saturn and Neptune have at last surrendered their stronghold in your bank account. And so now the rightful occupant — good, plain, simple money — can get a look in there instead.

Saturn has been squeezing you financially, and Neptune has added just a touch of cash confusion during 1988. Perhaps there has been illusion or even downright deception creeping into a transaction. Now thankfully, all is set to change and for the better.

And there's more. For perhaps the best news of all, for an emotional Scorpio, is that there must be almost an embarrassment of riches when it comes to affairs of the heart this year.

We begin 1989 with Jupiter the Great Benefic in your partnership/marriage area — until mid-March. This indicates a busy, happy phase in your marriage or intimate relationship. However, bountiful Jupiter does have a tendency to overdo things. Who can tell in what way? It could be anything from something as trivial as your partner in life putting on weight, or you could be contemplating bigamy.

Then, through to the beginning of August, we see Jupiter in Gemini and for you this is a phase when you benefit from resources you hold in common with someone else. Or there could even be an inheritance coming your way; this may take the material form of property or money or, on a higher level, it could be that a guide or mentor now passes on to you the flame of specialist knowledge which you find it is your turn to take over and carry out into the world.

This summer also sees you involved quite passionately in some emotional entanglement. Your emotions deepen, as you move on through August and into the colder months — for at this time Jupiter changes signs into Cancer — always an indicator of heightened spontaneity and inspiration for those born under the sign of Scorpio. There are two sides to every coin, however, and this change in the planetary system may mean that you are more easily irritated now, or emotionally perturbed.

Life's gamble

However, with Uranus in an Earth sign for once, your normally shrewd and canny ability to play all the cards close to your chest will be even more profound. Your poker face will not desert you, if and when you determine it is needed in the game of chance.

Your powerful and important ruler, the planet Pluto continues in Scorpio where it has been for the past two or three years. With Pluto's unique affinity for being in Scorpio, this is still a very exciting planetary position for astrologers (and for Scorpio's of course). In many people's lifetimes, in many a past generation, planetary cycles have rolled on without Pluto entering Scorpio at all. The intensity of it, the peeling back of layer upon layer of your depths revealing more Plutonian energy, will go on right through the 1990s.

This summer, particularly, do not pass up the opportunity to use your special talent for research. Your findings may benefit you as an individual, or all humanity. Indeed, 1989 cannot help but be a learning year for you. All the zodiacal pointers are there for a new broadening of your mind. An old enthusiasm about which you can now find out a whole lot more, or a new subject with all its satisfying attendant challenge and stimulus is bound to jump up at you and demand a great deal of attention.

With Saturn constricting your schedules, you'll be crying out for more time — more time simply for yourself, more time to spare for leisure and romance, and more hours for study and the application of your brain to your favourite puzzle — probably connected with the education in store for you.

Look to the future

This is destined to be an inventive year for you also, and if you are at all technologically inclined, you may well find yourself qualifying for a research grant, a patent or a gratifying pat on the back. You seem likely to make some sort of discovery or breakthrough. How important will it be? Well, anywhere on the Richter scale of significance from sorting out a way to make your own life run more smoothly and easily in the home or at your desk, to marketing a revolutionary new device. Tomorrow's World here you come!

You are more idealistic and more realistic than is usual for a Scorpio this year, and it is certain that you will change your world in some way by Christmas 1989.

You are full of new ideas and not just any ideas, but constructive plans for implementing them. You are determined to translate projects into something positive that will affect everyone around you.

To complicate the issue

Mind you, life isn't all a bed of roses and it is a complicated year by the look of it. Your finances improve, but don't hold your breath for it's unfortunately all too possible they get locked into convoluted schemes and investments which on the one hand tick up fortunes for your future but frustratingly separate you from current cash...or you are offered mindboggling, irresistible bargains, and you spend, spend, spend on acquiring them.

Lovewise, there is so much on offer now and of such quality that you may understandably reach out for more than your fair share. Then again, who is to say what exactly is a Scorpio's fair share?

In September and again in November particularly, Jupiter's largesse will be complicated by Neptune's action. Still, looking on the bright side, forewarned is forearmed so above all, don't consider gambling or speculating then, and be very sparing with booze, even with medication. This is a funny sort of time in your life, when you may be led into risky ventures, which at any other point you'd show a little more circumspection and run a mile from. If you are an experienced professional risk taker — and you often win in games of chance — disregard the warning. This could be your time to flourish. For other Scorpios it's a phase to move through very cautiously indeed.

So the key words for Scorpio's 1989 include love, money, originality, science, study and kindness. There is simply more kindness on planetary tap for you now. Less innate rivalry to be dealt with from others in your work environment. Friendships become more relaxed, particularly in the latter part of the year. And you too are kinder, less tense, more inclined to benefit others. And at this you can be as efficient as you can be at everything else.

Horoscopes for Sagittarius, Pisces, Aquarius and Capricorn will be published tomorrow.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Despite food problem Viet economy shows positive signs

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan 1. (AP): Official Radio Hanoi said yesterday that private sector growth and new foreign investment were positive signs for the Vietnamese economy in 1988, and food production remained its top problem.

"The food problem is still the most difficult problem in Vietnam. Despite the increase in food output every year ... the food demand of the whole society has not been met," said the broadcast monitored in Bangkok.

But it said that foreign investment to date, while not large, has been expanding along with external economic relations.

Businessmen from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and France are known to have been making cautious probes, and some have already signed contracts.

Production

Meanwhile, the target for food production in 1989 has been set by the government at 20 million metric tons, an increase of 5 per cent over the past year, Radio Hanoi reported.

Food shortages affected tens of thousands of families in northern Vietnam in early 1988 in the wake of typhoons, flooding and other natural calamities.

Senior government officials were criticised for the food shortages, reflecting what the broadcast said was "the new change in the political atmosphere in Vietnam."

In the past two years Communist Party leader Nguyen Van Linh has attempted to inject capitalist-style incentives into Vietnam's tottering economy and purge the government and party of ineffective officials. There also have been attempts at decentralising economic decision making.

The broadcast cited a range of private economic initiatives which reaped profits in 1988, including coffee growing in the central highlands, shrimp farms along the coast and investment by families in fishing. Output in the countryside reportedly increased in many areas because of the government's policy of encouraging private enterprise.

China produces 59.2 million tons of steel

BEIJING, Jan 1. (AP): China produced 59.2 million tons of steel in 1988, about 3 million tons more than in the previous year, according to the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry.

The ministry said pre-tax profits surged 10 per cent in 1988 to 10 billion yuan (\$2.7 billion), the official China Daily reported yesterday.

The newspaper said the steel industry faces a grim situation in 1989 due to poor transport conditions and shortages of raw materials and energy. The present stocks of raw materials and fuels are at their lowest level since 1988, the ministry said.

The steel industry, like other raw materials industries in China, has also been hit by profiteering and rapid inflation because of the inability of producers to meet rising demand.

Controls

In November, the government re-exerted controls over the industry. It banned trading in steel products by unauthorised dealers, required that producers fulfil mandatory plans assigned by the state, rationed certain types of rolled steel and tightened controls over rolled steel prices.

The ministry said the quality of China's steel is improving, with the amount of rolled steel which meets advanced international standards elected to rise from last year's eight million tons.

Basrah refinery to be operational in June

BAGHDAD, Jan 1. (OPECNA): An oil refinery in the southern Iraqi city of Basrah, whose completion was delayed by the war, is expected to be operational in June 1989.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi, who made the announcement at the weekend, said two units producing petroleum products with a capacity of 70,000 B/D each would be commissioned in January.

Construction

The minister explained that an Italian firm, which had built the refinery in September 1980, started complementary construction work earlier this month, adding that Iraqi firms had already completed reconstruction of the building damaged during the Gulf conflict.

Implementation of recent agreement will bring relative stability to prices

OPEC set to slash oil production

ABU DHABI, Jan 1. (Reuters): OPEC states looked set to apply the brakes to oil production on New Year's Day under a pact aimed at shoring up prices by cutting their output by nearly 20 per cent.

But Gulf-based industry sources said prices, which averaged about \$12 per barrel for Middle East crudes in 1988, would probably stay below \$15 this year due to high stocks in consumer countries.

Agreement

"Even if OPEC abides by its new agreement, (spot market) prices will remain soft," said an oil trader in London last week. He said the amount of oil loaded onto tankers in December would affect market prices in January and February.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed in November to limit total output to 18.5 million barrels per day (BPD) for the first six months of 1989 and gave each of the 13 members an individual quota.

The pact, starting today aimed to slash production by about four million BPD from December levels. It replaced a 1986 pact which was renewed three times and widely flouted, sending oil

prices tumbling.

"In 1988, first official prices went out of the window, then quotas," a senior Gulf oil executive said. "It was the right time for OPEC to agree on something."

Members of OPEC, which has a benchmark price of \$18 per barrel, have not released official figures on current output or on the size of cutbacks planned for January.

But industry sources said substantial cutbacks from big Gulf producers and other states would be needed to comply with the accord.

Leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, which together account for most of OPEC's surplus output, pledged last month to abide by the pact and industry sources said their commitment to it was crucial for the future of world prices.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, told customers in Japan in December that contract levels for January shipments would fall by 40 per cent but cuts for customers in the West might be lower, oil industry sources said.

They said the UAE might

exceed its new quota of 988,000 BPD since the second-biggest producer in the federation, the emirate of Dubai, was likely to maintain output at 400,000 BPD.

Abu Dhabi, the UAE's biggest producer, would probably cut production by about 700,000 BPD to one million BPD, the sources said. "UAE output will be around 1.3-1.4 million," one source predicted.

UAE Central Bank Governor Malek Al Hamar has said the UAE's 1988 gross national product probably fell by five or six per cent from 1987 due to lower oil prices.

Stability

"Implementation of the recent OPEC agreement will bring relative stability to oil prices and hence the UAE revenues (in 1989) will be similar to those of 1988," he was quoted as saying by the official WAM news agency. He gave no details of oil revenues.

Saudi Arabia's oil revenues have dropped from a peak of \$101 billion in 1981 to an estimated \$16 billion in 1988, economists said. They did not expect revenues to be higher in 1989.

Oil prices fluctuated throughout 1988, but stayed well below

the \$18 target.

Middle East benchmark crude Dubai began the year at \$14.90 and ended it at \$13.40, recovering from a low of just below \$10 in late November. Its official price is \$17.42.

Meanwhile, in New York, US oil prices ended the year on a high note, making a strong advance on Friday as traders scrambled to cover positions before the long holiday weekend.

The benchmark US crude, West Texas Intermediate for February delivery, broke through the key \$17 a barrel level in late trading and ended the session at \$17.34, 47 cents higher than Thursday's close.

Peter Beutel, an analyst with Elders Futures Inc, said a late buying spree swept prices up through key chart levels. "Traders holding short positions panicked and had to pay up to cover the positions," he said.

Positions

Dean Witter Reynolds analyst Stephen Platt said traders were covering positions ahead of the new production agreement of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that takes effect today.

The accord sets a production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a

day for the first half of 1989 compared with estimated output of about 22.5 million barrels a day in December. Oil prices, which were in a slump for much of the year, made a strong recovery after OPEC clinched its output deal in late November.

Of the 34,000 crude oil futures contracts traded Friday, about 17,000 were traded between noon and the close, according to the exchange.

Boosted

January gasoline futures rose 0.87 cent to 47.88 cents a gallon, boosted by news of refinery problems at two Ashland Inc. plants as well as a decline in US inventories last week, analysts said.

In European trading, oil prices also closed higher. North Sea Brent Blend, the most widely-traded crude, ended Friday at 16.20, a gain of 15 cents from Thursday and a full \$5 above the year's low, posted in October.

Traders said the latest Brent gains were prompted by fears of a shortage of the grade in the second half of January. Supply is tight because British output has been cut by 10 to 12 per cent after an accident involving a storage tanker in the North Sea last weekend.

QASCO to come under national management

DOHA, Jan 1. (OPECNA): The management of the Qatar Steel Company (QASCO) is to be formally taken over by Qatari nationals from Kobe Steel of Japan in the New Year.

This major move comes more than 15 years after Qatari decided to diversify its oil-based economy by embarking on a range of non-oil industrial enterprises.

Kobe will hand over management control tomorrow at a special ceremony, but continue to provide technical advisory services for another three years.

Operations

QASCO, which started operations in 1978 with 70 per cent of its shares held by the Qatari government, 20 per cent by Kobe and 10 per cent by Tokyo Boki of Japan, has emerged as one of the world's most efficiently-run steel plants.

QASCO has been producing 150 per cent above its designed capacity of 330,000 tonnes a year of reinforced steel bars. In 1987, production reached 500,000 tonnes and is expected to increase to 503,000 tonnes this year.

We have to live according to new economic realities: Odeh

Jordan unveils austerity budget for '89

AMMAN, Jordan, Jan 1. (AP): The government announced a 1989 austerity budget yesterday, saying it was facing "new economic realities" by slashing planned spending by more than 30 per cent in dollar terms.

The budget details carried by the official Jordan news agency came on the heels of government steps to devalue the dinar and rein in imports because of strains on the country's foreign exchange.

"We have to live according to new economic realities," Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said in a statement broadcast by the state-run Radio Jordan.

He said repayment of debts built up over the past decade is "a burden we have to carry on our shoulders."

The budget for this country of some three million people sets a spending target of 1,035 billion dinars (\$2.17 billion), down from 1,075 billion dinars (\$3.16 billion).

Because of the devalued dinar, the new plan is \$990 million less ambitious than the proposal first

made for 1988, which was worth \$3.16 billion at the time.

Actual spending and income in 1988 have not yet been announced.

"These numbers reflect the government's will to decrease spending although the servicing of the debt has increased and spending on production projects still continues," Odeh said.

The new budget counts on 207 million dinars (\$428 million) in Arab aid to hold the deficit to 122 million dinars (\$256 million).

There was a planned shortfall of 70 million dinars (\$197 million) in 1988, but the actual figure apparently was larger.

Odeh said the new budget would cut the deficit by some 45 per cent, although he did not specify the 1988 figure.

Jordan will have to get the Arab aid despite the end of a 10-year commitment by Arab oil states to give Jordan \$1.2 billion a year as a state on the confrontation line with Israel.

The donors never met that mark and only Saudi Arabia paid its full commitment of \$360 million a year.

Jordanian officials have asked other Gulf countries to pay some of the shortfall from past years.

The largest sector of the budget goes to defence and security services, which are to receive 252 million dinars (\$530 million) instead of 1988's 256 million dinars (\$752 million).

Service on the kingdom's debt is slated to hit 209 million dinars (\$439 million) from 178 million marks (\$323 million) budgeted for 1988.

Odeh, however, said debt servicing would actually increase and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai noted recently that Jordan was paying "close to \$900 million a year" to pay back loans.

Spending on economic development projects is to plunge to 154 million dinars (\$323 million) from 256 million dinars (\$753 million).

Odeh said the budget foresees an unspecified "increase in internal revenues," indicating there may have been a shortfall in 1988's budgeted 610.9 million dinar (\$1.8 billion) figure.

The new budget sets a target of 547.5 million dinars (\$1.1

billion).

Customs revenues are expected to bear the largest single burden: 155 million dinars (\$325.5 million).

Odeh said the Jordanian economy "stands on a strong base" of "wise leadership" and "flexible laws." But he said structural defects had to be corrected.

Growth

He cited the growth of the service sector over the production sector, increasing production deficits, overspending of foreign currency, and growing unemployment, officially estimated now at about 8 per cent.

He said the government would encourage investment in the private sector, stress agriculture, and concentrate on self-sufficiency.

In October, the government put the dinar into a managed float which left its value close to \$2, down from \$3 last year.

Last month, it banned new imports of cars, refrigerators, chandeliers and other luxury goods for one year and imposed stiff import duties on many products.

Reagan puts US, Canada free trade agreement into effect

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Jan 1. (Reuters): President Reagan took the final actions yesterday needed for a major trade agreement with Canada to take effect as scheduled today and telephoned his congratulations to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the White House said.

"Together our governments have set an example for the world on how eliminating trade barriers can benefit all peoples," Reagan told Mulroney, according to the White House.

The accord establishes the world's largest free trade zone between the two nations, which already are each others' closest trading partners, and sets up a framework for the resolution of future trade disputes.

Agreement

The free trade agreement will phase out all tariffs on US-Canadian trade over a 10-year period and will also move toward the elimination or reduction of non-tariff barriers to trans-border commerce between the two countries.

Trade between the United States and Canada totalled nearly \$150 billion in 1988, the White House said.

"The free trade agreement represents a signal accomplishment in the long history of US-Canada relations," White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said in a statement released here, where Reagan is taking a working vacation at the home of friend and publishing magnate Walter Annenberg.

"It will strengthen the industrial base of our two countries and will demonstrate to the multilateral system that it is possible to bring down trade barriers in an equitable and mutually beneficial manner," Popadiuk said.

The agreement was given final approval by the Canadian parliament only on Friday.

President Reagan's order yesterday implemented the accord on behalf of the United States.

Legislation to put the agreement into effect was cleared by the US Congress in September but approval by the Canadian

parliament was in doubt until the conclusion of last month's elections in Canada.

The accord had been a principal focus of the Canadian balloting, with Mulroney's opponents charging that it would mean US domination of Canadian cultural life.

"The agreement will also enhance energy security, improve the investment climate and significantly increase opportunities in the services sector, including financial services," Popadiuk said.

"While the free trade agreement will not eliminate all trade issues between our two countries, it gives us the framework to manage them and the basis for expanding our economic relations," the White House spokesman said.

Ironically, final approval of the free trade agreement came as a trade dispute flared between the United States and the European Economic Community (EEC), as trade sanctions took effect at midnight yesterday.

Scientists urged to explore ways to improve economic development

ABUJA, Nigeria, Jan 1. (OPECNA): Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida has called on the nation's scientists to explore ways of improving the economic and social development of the country.

He said that the correlation between the development of scientific research on the one hand and economic growth on the other had made intensive applied research imperative for Nigeria if it was to fully reap the benefits of its natural endowment as well as contribute to mankind through research.

"Economic growth must rely on advances in science and technology to ensure quality of life for the citizenry, while science

and technology must of necessity depend on a stable and buoyant economy," he said.

Babangida, who was speaking at the launching of the first National Science and Technology Complex, said the national policy on science and technology was aimed at co-ordinating research and development, while the endowment fund, which had already been set up, was to provide an independent source of finance for scientists and technologists.

Efforts

He urged the private sector to patronise Nigerian efforts in advancing the course of scientific research through contributions

to the endowment fund or direct sponsorship of specific research programmes. Such support, he said, often "created a multiplier effect on innovations and inventions."

Making a plea for culturally relevant scientific ventures, the President hoped that collaboration between the private sector and the scientists would lead to the emergence of a specific Nigerian techno-cultural identity reflective of its developmental aspirations.

The newly-opened complex is expected to promote research which is "comprehensive and organised" enough to reduce the alarming rate of brain drain from Nigeria.

Nigeria looks to small farmers and industry for non-oil wealth

LAGOS, Jan 1. (Reuters): Nigeria, struggling to reduce its dependence on imports paid for with foreign exchange earnings from oil sales, has launched an austerity budget for 1989 which seeks to channel scarce resources into agriculture and small scale industry.

Addressing the nation on radio and television today, Military President Ibrahim Babangida said small farmers and manufacturers, using and producing local materials, were the centre-piece of the government's economic plan.

But economists said the stringent measures in a budget which had to cope with a burgeoning balance of payments deficit and huge foreign debts as well as mass unemployment and a surging cost of living would make the government's goals hard to achieve.

Babangida said nearly three years of structural adjustment had been extremely painful for individuals and groups used to opulence built on oil riches, but now that oil prices had crashed there could be no return to "the old profligate ways."

"This administration is determined to continue with the goal of diversification of the economy in 1989 so as to make us less dependent on the oil sector," he said.

Babangida said oil still accounted for at least 80 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Assuming a price of \$14 a barrel and production at 1,355 million barrels a day, oil would contribute \$4.22 billion to revenue in the coming year, with other government earnings adding \$1.14 billion and private sector exports bringing in \$1.32 billion.

These figures compare with Nigerian earnings at the height of the oil boom of up to \$26 billion. Nigerian economists said the government's measures, which

included raising petrol prices by 43 per cent for private motorists, eliminating a range of fringe benefits for public employees, trimming spending by ministries and restricting money supply and credit growth would help to control the country's deficit.

But they doubted measures to encourage investment in agriculture and small scale manufacturing would make much headway in an atmosphere of economic stringency.

"This is a budget which puts on the brakes," said a senior economist with a major Nigerian conglomerate.

"It cuts back on disposable income in both private and public sectors, tightens credit and allocates a massive and probably unsustainable proportion of funds and debt servicing."

Babangida said the budget foresaw recurrent expenditure rising to 20.81 billion naira (\$3.93 billion) at the pre-budget official rate from 15.71 billion naira (\$2.60 billion) in 1988, mainly because of an allocation of 8.82 billion naira (\$1.66 billion) for interest payments on external loans.

EIB loan for Ethiopia

BRUSSELS, Jan 1. (Reuters): Ethiopia is to receive an \$11.6 million low-interest loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Economic Community's development bank, to help finance construction of a new port terminal at Assab.

The port extension is part of a transport scheme costing over \$140 million to which the World Bank and African Development Bank are also contributing, the EIB said in a statement today.

The terminal, which will be able to handle general cargo, container and roll-on roll-off ships, will be built between the middle of next year and 1992.

World Business Summary

Iranian budget aims to repair war damage

NICOSIA, Jan 1. (Reuters): Iran, detailing its first budget since the ceasefire in the war with Iraq, said today it planned to resume natural gas exports next year. Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi told parliament his budget bill also covered repairs to war-damaged oil facilities and power plants, Tehran Radio reported. The budget for the Iranian year beginning on March 21 put total government spending at 3,856 billion rials (\$55 billion), four per cent less than the current year's projected figure, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. Mousavi did not give a figure for the budget deficit, which grew consistently during the eight-year war to a projected 1,000 billion rials (\$15 billion) in the current year. The ceasefire took effect in August. He said foreign exchange earnings next year would be boosted by natural gas and fuel oil exports. Iran has the world's second largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union. Tehran and Moscow agreed last month to resume Iranian gas supplies through pipeline to the Soviet Union, cut off in 1980 over a pricing dispute. Details of price and volume were not given. Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgandeh said last month that gas for the Soviet Union would come from the Kangan Refinery in the south which was not likely to come on stream for another year. Mousavi said credits earmarked for agriculture and water projects in the bill were 10.5 per cent higher than in the current year. He said 86,500 additional hectares (214,000 acres) of land would be irrigated next year.

Education, health and social security accounted for 37 per cent of the budget, he said. He did not give a figure for military expenditure, but said government spending excluding war-related expenses would grow by 3.2 per cent. The war had absorbed about a third of government revenues, according to independent estimates. Mousavi said \$11.5 billion would be spent on development projects as Iran needed research and investment in advanced industries to build a self-sufficient economy. Priority in the energy sector would go to repairing damaged power plants and building new ones. Oil installations would be repaired, including a refinery at Abadan with a capacity of 130,000 barrels per day, and new oil export terminals would be built.

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Soviet Union continues purchases of US grain

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (AP): The Soviet Union continues to buy US grain under a recently extended long-term agreement between the two countries, including a new deal for 420,000 metric tons of wheat at subsidised prices, the Agriculture Department said last week. Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the department's foreign agricultural service, said the wheat was part of two million tons authorised Dec 23 under the Export Enhancement Programme or EEP. Goldthwait said the wheat is for shipment in January. Counting some wheat left over from previous EEP arrangements, the Soviet have about 1.6 million tons still available under the programme. The Soviet Union bought more than nine million tons of wheat under EEP arrangements during the fifth year of the grain agreement. The pact expired Sept 30 but was later extended for another year. Department officials said also the Soviets bought an additional 314,256 tons of US corn that had previously been reported by exporters as headed for "unknown destinations." The corn sales are not subsidised. With the latest sales, the Soviets have bought about 10.4 million tons of US corn for delivery in the sixth year of the supply agreement. The EEP programme allows exporters to sell wheat and other grains at subsidised prices to 16 specified countries at reduced prices in order to meet foreign competition. The exporters then collect free government surpluses of grain or other products as bonuses, or subsidies. Last year, US corn sales to the Soviet Union totalled slightly less than 5.2 million tons. Wheat sales in 1987-88, all subsidised, totalled slightly more than nine million tons. A metric ton is about 2,205 pounds and is equal to 39.4 bushels of corn or 36.7 bushels of wheat or soybeans. The 420,000 tons of wheat would be about 15.4 million bushels. The latest corn sales would be about 12.4 million bushels. Wheat prices at the farm have been averaging about \$4 per bushel, according to recent USDA market figures, making the new sale worth an estimated \$62 millions. The corn, at \$2.60 per bushel, could have a farm value of about \$32 million.

Panel urges more flexible controls on computer exports

WASHINGTON, Jan 1. (AP): The United States and its allies should take a more focused and flexible approach to export controls on computers, especially since the existing curbs have become virtually unenforceable, a scientific advisory panel said last week. It urged that the administration concentrate instead on striving — together with its NATO allies and Japan — to control leakage to the Soviet bloc of militarily valuable supercomputers and the most advanced computer manufacturing processes. "The United States cannot afford to be complacent about its computer technology strengths or lose export control decisions on an assumption of an invincible lead," said the National Research Council report, prepared at the request of the State Department. It noted that "as the computer market becomes increasingly global, US firms face increasing foreign competition, mostly from firms operating with fewer export barriers under the same COCOM guidelines. COCOM is the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, comprised of the United States, Japan and all NATO countries except Iceland. The report contended that "tighter US controls may reflect the absence of a fully effective multilateral control effort, but there is a risk that in the computer area, the United States may lack the proverbial barn door after the horse has escaped." Preparing the assessment was a 17-member committee chaired by Seymour E. Goodman, professor of management information systems and policy at the University of Arizona. The National Research Council is the principal operating agency of the national academies of sciences and engineering. The report concluded that "current technological progress will make controls harder to enforce, and technological and market developments combine to make a case for a more focused and flexible control process." Increasingly powerful computer hardware and software, it said, are in effect becoming commodities in world trade.

Inflation sets record 28.79pc

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Jan 1. (AP): Out-of-control inflation jumped a record 28.79 per cent in December as the government's latest efforts to control the spiral of rising wages and prices has failed, the government said last week. Accumulated inflation in the year reached 933.62 per cent, also a 12-month record, according to the Geography and Statistics Institute. In 1987, the year's inflation was 365.96 per cent, the institute said. Annual figures are calculated by compounding, not adding, the monthly rate. The inflation figure is through Dec 15, according to the government's method of gathering statistics. Inflation through Nov 15 was 26.92 per cent, the government said. Personal expenses pushed up the cost of living more than any other item, jumping by 33 per cent in the month. Food was up 29.76 per cent in December, the institute said. December inflation was substantially higher than the 26 per cent target set in a "social pact" negotiated between business, government and labour leaders in an early-November last ditch effort to stop runaway cost of living increases. During a 60-day trial period, there were to be voluntary limits placed on price increases and public services. Workers agreed to pre-set raises to compensate for inflation. The government has indicated that in January it will impose an anti-inflation programme, which is expected to include cuts in public spending. The deficit, widely believed to fuel inflation, is running at about six per cent of Gross National Product. In recent years, Brazil has instituted several widely heralded plans

Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait trade volume dips

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 41.21 points with an increase of 0.26 point — 0.634 per cent — over last week's average.

The Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 48.40 points with an increase of 0.02 point — 0.04 per cent — for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 31.45 million shares at a daily average of 6.29 million shares with a decrease of 23.5 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 8.23 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 23.45 million shares at a daily average of 4.69 million shares with an increase of 32 per cent over last week's daily average of 3.56 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD2.227 million at a daily average of KD2.227 million, a decrease of 19 per cent from last week's daily average of KD2.749 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD0.940 million at a daily average of KD0.188 million an increase of 15 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.164 million.

The market performance was weak though this was the last week of trading for the year. This can be observed from the slight increase in Kuwait share prices which was accompanied with a decline in both trading volume and value, in spite of the attempts which were made to back up the prices before the last few hours before year closing.

The market was also weak for Gulf shares as the increase in prices, volume and value were limited.

For the Kuwaiti share market, the Banking sector had the lead at 76 per cent against 75 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank led in the sector at 26 per cent followed by The Commercial Bank at 25 per cent and Burgan Bank at 21 per cent.

Second came the Services sector at 9 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems led at 48 per cent followed by Kuwait Commercial Markets at 47.8 per cent and Kuwait Computer Company at 2 per cent. Third came the Real Estate sector at 8 per cent of total market trading.

Kuwait Real Estate Company led within the sector at 79 per cent followed by United Realty Company at 13 per cent and National Real Estate Company at 7 per cent. As for the Gulf shares markets, the Other Companies Sector came first at 62 per cent of total market trading, of which Ras Al Khaima White Cement led at 37 per cent of total trading in both sectors followed by Bahrain International Bank at 17 per cent and Coast Investment and Development Company at 11 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 28/12/88	Wednesday 21/12/88	Change points
Banking Sector	110.59	109.57	1.01
The National Bank	33.15	33.15	—
The Gulf Bank	25.26	26.56	-1.31
The Commercial Bank	35.08	35.56	-0.48
Al Ahli Bank	34.20	33.33	0.88
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	30.95	28.97	1.98
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	27.25	29.24	-1.98
Burgan Bank	80.12	81.64	-1.51
Kuwait Finance House	47.73	47.57	-0.14
Investment Sector	25.71	24.24	1.47
Kuwait Investment Co.	25.77	24.05	1.72
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	85.71	80.95	4.76
IFA	70.59	70.59	—
Commercial Facilities	120.00	123.75	-3.75
Sector Index	37.64	36.52	1.12
Insurance Sector	41.86	38.05	3.81
Kuwait Insurance Co.	27.69	26.92	0.77
Gulf Insurance Co.	54.82	54.82	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	72.16	73.88	-1.72
Warba Insurance Co.	41.88	38.78	2.10

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The National Bank	110.59	109.57	1.01
The Gulf Bank	33.15	33.15	—
The Commercial Bank	25.26	26.56	-1.31
Al Ahli Bank	35.08	35.56	-0.48
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	34.20	33.33	0.88
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.95	28.97	1.98
Burgan Bank	27.25	29.24	-1.98
Kuwait Finance House	80.12	81.64	-1.51
Sector Index	47.73	47.57	-0.14
Investment Sector	25.71	24.24	1.47
Kuwait Investment Co.	25.77	24.05	1.72
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	85.71	80.95	4.76
IFA	70.59	70.59	—
Commercial Facilities	120.00	123.75	-3.75
Sector Index	37.64	36.52	1.12
Insurance Sector	41.86	38.05	3.81
Kuwait Insurance Co.	27.69	26.92	0.77
Gulf Insurance Co.	54.82	54.82	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	72.16	73.88	-1.72
Warba Insurance Co.	41.88	38.78	2.10

US currency manages to rise in '88 after two years of steep fall

Dollar 'must decline further to promote export growth'

NEW YORK, Jan. 1, (UPI): After a sharp two-year decline engineered by the Reagan administration and tolerated by the industrial democracies, the US dollar managed to rise in 1988 from late 1987 levels despite a retreat from its summer rally.

The dollar closed the year at 1.7690 against the West German mark and 124.70 against the Japanese yen, up from the post-war lows of 1.56 marks and 121 yen established on the final day of trading in 1987.

The currency, however, was unable to sustain the 1.9245 mark level attained on Aug 10 or the 137.25 yen level set on Sept 2. The erosion in the October-November period aside, 1988 was the first year since 1984 that the dollar did not depreciate from the previous year's levels.

Ability

As a result of the currency's ability to break the inexorable decline that began in earnest in September 1986 — with the so-called Plaza Accord between the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain and France — debate emerged over whether the dollar had fallen far enough.

It was no secret that the Reagan administration wanted a lower greenback in order to

reduce the staggering US merchandise trade deficit, which reached a record \$171 billion in 1987.

And while the lower-dollar policy did narrow the trade imbalance — the 1988 deficit was expected to fall to around \$130 billion — the likelihood of further improvement from a weaker dollar has come into question.

Philip Braverman, chief economist at Irving Trust Co., said a sharply lower dollar is not necessary. The dollar, in his view, is now essentially where it should be — low enough to help reduce the trade imbalance but not so low as to exacerbate the inflationary pressures starting to emerge in the economy.

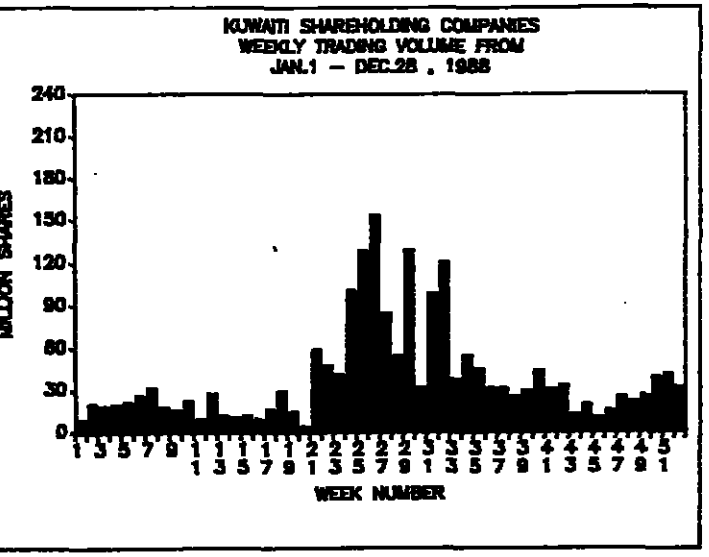
Others, most notably Martin Feldstein, former chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, argue that the dollar must decline even further to promote strong export growth and ensure an improved trade outlook.

The lower dollar has been able to narrow the trade deficit by making US product less expensive abroad and more competitive with higher-priced imports at home.

Too low a dollar, however, can

Real Estate Sector	24.72	24.72	—
Kuwait Real Estate	8.94	9.16	-0.22
United Realty	42.20	38.62	3.58
National Real Estate	18.43	18.03	0.41
Sector Index	17.38	17.38	—
Industrial Sector	88.94	88.94	—
Kuwait Cement Co.	115.19	114.16	1.03
Refrigeration Indust.	86.22	87.11	-0.89
Gulf Cables	36.17	36.10	0.08
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	172.80	183.60	-10.80
Sector Index	8.56	9.04	-0.48
Services Sector	70.71	71.72	1.01
Kuwait Computer Co.	35.95	36.95	-1.00
Kuwait Cinema Co.	319.05	323.81	-4.76
Public Warehousing Co.	58.94	60.20	-1.27
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	48.41	46.38	2.03
Mobile Telephone Syst.	10.91	10.91	—
Sector Index	83.41	79.21	4.40
Food Sector	72.41	68.97	3.45
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	43.44	41.61	1.83
United Fisheries	41.21	40.85	0.26
Kuwait United Poultry	—	—	—
Kuwait Food Co.	—	—	—
Sector Index	—	—	—
Overall Index	—	—	—

Gulf shareholding companies index	Wednesday 28/12/88	Wednesday 21/12/88	Change points
Financial Companies	163.16	163.16	—
First Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
United Gulf Bank	92.41	92.41	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	102.51	102.51	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	61.03	61.03	—
Gulf Investments Co.	92.38	93.33	-0.95
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	60.30	60.30	—
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	53.03	54.55	-1.52
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	64.07	64.30	-0.23
Sector Index	8.98	8.55	0.43
Other Companies	10.50	10.50	—
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	8.55	7.24	1.32
Sharjah Cement	28.33	27.78	0.56
Fujairah Cement	34.21	33.11	1.10
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	15.56	15.01	0.55
Gulf Medical Projects	48.40	48.38	0.02
Sector Index	—	—	—
Overall Index	—	—	—
Base Period 31/12/1983	—	—	—



Japan emerges as world's largest aid giver

TOKYO, Jan. 1, (UPI): Japan surpassed the United States in 1988 as the world's largest foreign aid donor and is expected to play a more prominent role next year, possibly influencing decisions as far as Latin America and the Middle East.

But Japan also is wary of its new political role, insisting that the cornerstone of its foreign policy still rests solidly on its post-World War II security alliance with the United States. That alliance largely guides its relations with countries around the globe.

Approval Economically, Japan will face increased pressure from the United States and the European Economic Community to liberalize farm imports. Trade disputes with Washington loom on rival technology for high-definition television and continuous friction over semiconductors.

At home, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita appears to

have succeeded in gaining parliamentary approval for a sweeping tax reform package, including Japan's first sales tax.

His government ended the year, however, still battling to regain credibility over a snow-balling stock trading scandal that forced the resignation of Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in December.

Events Japan in 1988 also had to prepare for the death of Emperor Hirohito, 87, the nation's figurehead leader for nearly 62 years, bedridden with reported abdominal cancer since September.

Hirohito's eldest son and heir, Crown Prince Akihito, 54, assumed most of the emperor's duties shortly after his father became ill. Japanese foreign analysts agreed that a change in the ceremonial leadership of the country would have little effect on foreign or domestic policies.

One of the most significant events of the year for Japan was its emergence as the world's largest

giver of foreign aid, now \$10 billion annually compared with \$9 billion for the United States, according to figures supplied by the Foreign Ministry.

Takeshita has pledged an additional \$50 billion in foreign aid over the next five years.

"Japan has started to realize, whether for good or bad, that it is having political influence with other nations," said Takujiro Hamada, the No. 2 man in the Foreign Ministry.

"Japan has previously played a minor role on the diplomatic front," he said. "The last 40 years since the war were centered around trying to rebuild the nation economically and the foreign policy of Japan reflected this fact."

Role

"But Japan has now surpassed the United States as the largest aid donor nation. This should be recognized and some nations, particularly in Asia, are desiring some political initiative from Japan."

The Foreign Ministry official

said Japan played a behind-the-scenes mediating role in the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Iraq to end the Gulf war and pledged \$10 million in post-war reconstruction for the two countries.

"Japan, in the backstage, helped to bring the whole matter to a peaceful stage because of our trade and economic co-operation with Iran and Iraq," Hamada said.

Similarly, Japan may play its financial aid into political influence in 1989 in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa and Asia, he indicated.

Agreements

While Japan gingerly steps out of America's diplomatic shadow, its government insists that it remains in a solid partnership with Washington, moving toward a shared goal of global security.

In economic matters, however, the Japan-US relationship, as well as that with the European Economic Commu-

Oman forecasts sharp rise in budget deficit

NICOSIA, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Oman has forecast that its 1989 budget deficit will be almost twice as high as in 1988 because of falling oil revenues and higher spending.

Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Bin Abdul Monim Al Zawawi, quoted by the Omani news agency, estimated the deficit at 409 million Omani rials (\$1.07 billion) compared with the projected 194 million rials (\$505 million) in 1988.

"Because of falling oil prices worldwide, the country has taken precautionary measures in forecasting the state budget," he said.

Down

The budget estimated revenues at 1,209 billion rials (\$3.148 billion), sharply down from last year's 1,35 billion rials (\$3.516 billion).

Spending was put at 1,617 billion rials (\$4.21 billion), slightly up from 1,60 billion rials (\$4.17 billion).

Oman, which produces about half a million barrels of oil a day, said 75 per cent of its income would come from oil revenues against 79 per cent last year.

Zawawi said Oman hoped to borrow 70 million rials (\$181 million) on the international loan markets and would continue to issue treasury bonds, started in 1977.

He said new development projects in 1989 would cost about 163 million rials (\$424 million).

Soviet trade team for Cairo

CAIRO, Jan. 1, (KUNA): A high-ranking Soviet delegation headed by First Deputy Minister for External Trade and Economy, Vladimir Fydyrtov begins an official visit to Egypt tomorrow for talks on broadening economic and commercial co-operation.

The Soviet delegation will hold official talks tomorrow with the Egyptian Minister of Economy and Trade Dr Yusr Moustapha.

Egyptian officials have said that the trade volume between Egypt and the Soviet Union is expected to reach \$2 billion in the coming five years.

Soviet authorities clamp down on small private businesses

MOSCOW, Jan. 1, (Reuters): Soviet authorities have banned the country's mushrooming private businesses from trading in a wide range of goods and services — including selling video films, producing alcohol, and treating venereal disease.

The restrictions, ordered by the council of ministers and published by the official Tass news agency on Thursday, were announced unexpectedly without any public discussion.

The announcement said co-operatives could engage only in some activities, such as publishing, making jewellery and giving certain types of medical assistance if they had contracts to do so with state enterprises.

Tass said city councils had until Feb 1 to bring local co-operatives in line with the decree.

Restrictions

Political analysts said the restrictions seemed certain to stifle some small private businesses as first permitted two years ago as part of economic reforms launched by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

There are now tens of thousands of them and they provide goods and services that would otherwise be in very short supply in the state-run economy.

For example, in Moscow one co-operative offers medical advice, another has opened a kin-

dergarten with special reading courses. A third selling clothes, shoes and jewellery is one of the most popular shopping addresses in town.

Lucrative

The new order bans co-operative from a whole range of lucrative activities such as selling jewellery, renting, copying or showing video films, producing alcohol and buying and selling goods belonging to foreigners.

Also banned are organising private schools, manufacturing drugs, weapons and explosives, establishing pawn shops, casinos and lotteries, and producing items with religious symbols or church candles.

The ban also includes giving medical treatment for pregnancy, cancer and venereal disease.

Tass also said small businesses would no longer be allowed to trade in foreign currency in cash. This appeared to suggest that any foreign currency dealings would require bank transfer forms, credit cards, cheques or other paperwork.

Output

Apparently unrestricted by the decree were agricultural co-operatives encouraged by officials to improve the country's food output, and — except for

the currency stipulation and a rule that they meet public health requirements — the popular co-operative cafes.

Sales by small businesses totalled about one billion roubles (\$1.6 billion) in the first six months of this year.

But because many co-operative workers make more money than the average Soviet wage-earner, the movement has been controversial from the start.

Newspapers have been filled with stories of co-operatives clashing with local bureaucrats who refuse to give them access to space or materials they need.

Plans

Earlier this year the Finance Ministry drafted plans for raising taxes on co-operatives but it was told to rewrite them after coming under fire in parliament.

In May, the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, adopted a law on co-operatives that Tass said was aimed at encouraging their growth.

The law gave them the right to deal with foreign markets and to draw loans from Soviet banks, in roubles or foreign currency.

But it also contained a clause saying the council of ministers could decide how the rules should be applied through decrees — such as the one published on Thursday.

Inflation fight seen crucial to Turkish government survival

ANKARA, Jan. 1, (Reuters): The battle against soaring prices looks crucial to the survival of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's government, with the Central Bank playing a pivotal role.

"If we do not bring inflation down, they (the voters) will bring us down," a senior government official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

Government and banking sources said a consensus was emerging to give the Central Bank, traditionally second fiddle to the Treasury, more autonomy to lead the struggle against rising prices.

Highest

Consumer price inflation hit an annual rate of 87.5 per cent in November, double the figure a year ago and the highest since just after a 1980 army coup quelled extremist political violence caused in part by economic woes.

"I fully support autonomy for the Central Bank. An independent Central Bank is a must to combat inflation," said State Minister Adnan Kahveci.

"We are giving our full-hearted support to the Central Bank for its being independent on monetary policies," said Tayfun Bayazit, executive vice-president of Yapi Kredi Bank.

Ozal has been widely criticised for free-wheeling economic policies since his Motherland Party was re-elected with 292

seats in the 450-seat parliament in November 1987.

The conservative premier, who applied in April last year for full Turkish membership of the European Economic Community (EEC), has said he will bring the inflation rate down to under 20 per cent before his term ends in 1992.

Question

But a vital question is how long voters will tolerate big price rises in most state-run sectors as Turkey adjusts its economy to back the EEC application.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in a report on Dec 20 that high inflation would haunt Turkey into the 1990s.

Central Bank Governor Rusdu Saracoglu, widely viewed as the brightest of Western-trained so-called princes brought home by Ozal to oversee the economy, last week repeated a call for more autonomy to implement a strict monetary policy.

Unwell

"I want to stay Central Bank governor for 10 years. I will fight for more autonomy," newspapers quoted him as telling businessmen at a dinner in Istanbul.

Saracoglu, 40, was at odds with Ozal in mid-October when he described a decision to free bank deposit interest rates after a run on the Turkish lira as a political move.

Officials at the Central Bank, owned 51 per cent by the Treasury and 49 per cent by institutional and individual share owners said it would unveil an anti-inflation programme early in 1989.

Other bankers said the programme was likely to include strict controls, on a monthly basis, on money in circulation.

"An excessive liquidity rise in the system should be put under control. We should stop as soon as possible fanning the flame (of inflation)," said Selcuk Abac, an economist who heads the Istanbul-based Institute of Banking and Insurance.

Some bankers believe Ozal may seek to inject more cash into the system during the run-up to municipal elections on March 26, the eighth time Turks will have gone to the polls since three years of military rule ended in 1983.

Encouraging While inflation and its causes are black spots on the economy, there are encouraging statistics in some other areas.

Foreign debt fell to \$36.4 billion in October from \$38.3 billion at the end of 1987 not including a military debt of \$2.2 billion.

The Central Bank said on Thursday that Turkey had a record current account surplus of \$408 million in the first 10 months of 1988, compared with a deficit of \$292 million in the same 1987 period.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Tender No. AA/MK/20/87/88

Requirements: Construction, completion & maintenance of public beaches No 10 & No 11.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No 1.

Tender No. 8/4330

Requirements: Supply of compressor. The CTC announces that the closing date of the above tender is postponed from Sunday, 25.12.1988 to Sunday 22.1.1989.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant addendum No 1.

NOTICES

Tender No. 2-88/89

Requirements: removal, re-construction & pavement of main runway at Kuwait Int Airport.

C. Hoose remain only undefeated darts team

WITH the KBRC Monday League now in its three week winter break, teams can now reflect on their progress so far. On average 8 of the scheduled 22 fixtures have been completed by each team, which leaves plenty of time for fortunes to fluctuate.

As the only undefeated team, last season's runners-up Cottar Hoose can be quite happy with their performances to date, though their League lead is only game difference over new boys Straight As A Dai.

Neither team can afford to be complacent, as defending champions Bagges, Cunning Linguists and Tanker Co. are all within 4 points of the top.

In the Ladies League, Bandits have emerged as clear leaders, having dropped only two points in an early season encounter with Cottar Hoose. This was however one of only two successes so far for the Hoose girls, who will have to make no more mistakes if they intend to retain the crown they earned last season.

With Pacifists and Dai-A-Straights each having lost only twice, there is still a long way to go before any side can claim the 1989 title.

Individually, there have been several personal performances of note. Three players have all made a 180 score, Ken Edwards, Keith Swaden and Louie Jorgensen, but strangely enough all have gone on to lose the game in which they were playing, 2-1 - obviously too stunned to finish.

27 140 club trophies for men have been won, while 9 ladies have achieved the equivalent feat in their matches. The least number of darts needed to win a leg is 16 by Doug Francis in his 2-1 defeat of a shell-shocked Mike Simms, and Peter Granowski managed 9 bulls in 6 darts but still lost in a tricky Mouse against Raganuffins.

The leader in the trophy for the ladies highest score of the season is Maureen Simms of Queens with 154, with Mary Craig of Mishra second on 140. Men's highest finish is currently shared on 103 by Andy Wilson (SAAD) and Brendon Richardson (C.H.), whilst the race for the very close, George Smith (SAAD), ahead on 12, with John Gowanland (R), John Donovan (SAAD) and Tony Robinson (Exiles), all one score behind.

Games re-start on January 9, and the Straight As A Dai v Cottar Hoose clash on Feb 6 is eagerly awaited.

Monday League									
Men's Division									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
C. Hoose	6	2	0	0	36	12	14		
SAAD	8	7	0	1	34	14	14		
C. Linguists	9	1	2	3	21	12	12		
Bagges	7	5	1	1	27	15	11		
Tanker Co.	8	4	2	2	30	18	10		
Exiles	8	3	3	2	29	19	9		
Raganuffins	7	3	3	1	21	17	7		
Waltonians	9	3	1	5	25	29	7		
Bandits	8	3	0	5	21	27	6		
Pacifists	9	1	2	6	16	38	4		
Mishra	8	1	7	14	34	42	2		
Members	7	0	7	5	37	0	0		
Ladies Division									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Bandits	8	7	0	1	14	3	14		
Pacifists	7	5	0	2	11	6	10		
Queens	8	5	0	3	12	7	10		
Dai-A-S	6	4	0	2	9	5	8		
Tanker Co.	7	4	0	3	8	8	8		
Cottar Hoose	6	2	0	4	6	7	4		
Mishra	6	2	0	4	5	4	4		
Fallthorpe	6	2	0	4	5	4	4		
Raganuffins	4	7	0	3	2	6	4		
Nightingales	6	0	0	6	0	12	0		

Blair sweeps team trials

WEST ALLIS, Wisconsin, Jan 1. (UPI) Double Olympic medalist Bonnie Blair won both races last night to sweep the two-day competition in the team trials for the US sprint speedskating team. Blair won the 500-metre race in a time of 41.24 seconds and the 1,000 metres in 1:25.06. Blair, who won a gold medal in the 500 and a bronze in the 1,000 at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, also won both races Friday night.

IMRAN CLASHES WITH UMPIRE

W. Indies brush aside Pakistan

PERTH, Australia, Jan 1. (Reuters) Pakistan captain Imran Khan was involved in a finger-wagging exchange with umpire Robin Bailhache as West Indies strode to a seven-wicket win in their World Series Cup cricket match today.

West Indies' success extended their 100 per cent winning sequence in the triangular limited overs competition to five matches. They lead the standings with 10 points from Australia (3) and Pakistan (0).

All-rounder Imran's confrontation with Bailhache started after the umpire signalled a wide for a leg-side delivery in his fifth over to Richie Richardson.

Imran's following delivery was outside off stump and Richardson let the ball pass by. The Pakistani then asked Bailhache why that had not been called a wide.

After his next delivery, the final ball of the over, Imran wagged his finger at Bailhache and continued what appeared to be a heated discussion as he followed the umpire to square leg before eventually moving to field at mid-off.

Imran's team slumped to their fourth Cup defeat, making only 140 for nine in their 50 overs after being put in to bat on a greenish pitch. West Indies completed victory at 142 for three off 38.2 overs.

The West Indian fast bowlers exploited the helpful conditions



Miandad plays a ball past W. Indian wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon. (Reuters wirephoto)

effectively, making the ball bounce disconcertingly at times as Pakistan crashed to 32 for five.

Trinidadian Ian Bishop did most of the damage with the new ball in a burst of four for 15 in his first 33 deliveries, finishing with five for 27 from 10 overs.

Bishop, on his second West Indies tour and yet to win a Test cap, was not in the original squad but earned his chance when fellow paceman Curtly Ambrose had to pull out after waking up with stomach trouble.

Pakistan were pinned down to such an extent that there was only one boundary in their innings. Javed Miandad steering a ball from medium-pace Carl Hooper through the vacant third slip position.

But for Miandad, Pakistan's plight would have been even greater. He came in at 20 for two in the sixth over and battled to an unbeaten 63 off 170 deliveries in 173 minutes.

Pakistan squandered the chance of an early breakthrough

when Saeed Anwar, at backward point, dropped opener Desmond Haynes off Imran when he had scored only two.

Haynes went on to make 23 as West Indies reached 61 for three, at which point Richardson and Hooper embarked on an unfinished fourth wicket partnership of 81 in 84 minutes to clinch victory.

Richardson's unbeaten 50 occupied 80 deliveries and Hooper scored 33 not out from 60 balls.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN	
Ramooz Raja lbw b Bishop	6
Selam Younis b Bishop	2
Saeed Anwar c Hooper b Marshall	3
Javed Miandad not out	63
Selam Malik c Richardson b Bishop	1
Ijaz Ahmed c Greenidge b Bishop	1
Imran Khan c Dujon b Walsh	7
Wasim Akram c Dujon b Hooper	13
Tamoor Ahmed run out	12
Mohsin Kamal b Bishop	1
Aaqib Javed not out	0
Extras (b-1 lb-8 w-13 nb-9)	31
Total (nine wickets - 50 overs)	140
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-20, 3-21, 4-22, 5-32, 6-39, 7-94, 8-135, 9-139.	
Bowling: M. Marshall 7-0-17-1 (4w 1nb), I. Bishop 10-1-27-5 (4w 6nb), C. Walsh 10-2-21-1 (1w 1nb), W. Benjamin 10-3-17-0 (1nb), C. Hooper 8-0-28-1, V. Richardson 5-0-21-0 (4w).	
Batting time: 205 mins. Overs: 58.	
WEST INDIES	
G. Greenidge c Tameef b Aaqib	13
D. Haynes c Younis b Akram	23
R. Richardson not out	50
J. Dujon c Akram b Aaqib	10
C. Hooper not out	33
Extras (lb-3 w-3 nb-7)	13
Total (three wickets - 38.2 overs)	142
Fall of wickets: 1-30 2-44 3-61.	
Did not bat: V. Richardson (captain), R. Harper, M. Marshall, W. Benjamin, I. Bishop, C. Walsh.	
Bowling: Imran 9-2-23-0 (1w 3nb), Kamal 9-2-0-56-0 (1w), Akram 10-4-27-1 (1w 2nb), Aaqib 10-0-33-2 (2nb).	
Result: West Indies won by seven wickets	

Standings	
Standings in the World Series Cup limited overs cricket competition after today's match between West Indies and Pakistan here (tableau under played, won, lost, points, run rate)	
Australia	5 0 10 4.87
Pakistan	4 0 4 0 3.85



Mahmoud El Khatib (top): quits soccer

El Khatib scores twice in retirement match

CAIRO, Jan 1. (Reuters) Mahmoud El Khatib, Egypt's top soccer player for more than a decade, scored twice in his retirement game on Friday at a sports festival featuring some of the Arab world's leading footballers.

The relaxed exhibition match between Khatib's Ahli team and their Cairo rivals Zamalek was the highlight of a day of celebrations watched by about 80,000 fans at Cairo stadium.

Khatib, 34, wearing his traditional No 10 red shirt, cut himself loose from normal soccer rules and scored once for each team.

Dubbed "The Football Magician", he played with Ahli for the first 25 minutes, switched to Zamalek for the rest of the first half and returned to Ahli after the interval.

Khatib, dubbed "The Football Magician", showed some of his skills in presenting Faisal El Dekhil of Kuwait with a fine pass to score the first goal.

The teams finished level at 4-4 after 90 minutes but Ahli won a mock penalty shootout 2-1 to receive a special cup for the occasion from Khatib.

Hundreds of multi-coloured balloons and scores of white pigeons were released into the

sky as Khatib bid farewell to the spectators and his team-mates.

As tens of thousands of fans cheered and shouted his nickname "Bibi Bibi", he said in a choking voice over the loud-speaker system: "This is too much for me... thank God a thousand times and thank you all."

In a career extending over more than 17 years, Khatib carved out an unprecedented reputation in Egypt, Africa and the Arab world as a goalscorer and shrewd ball-player. He was chosen as Africa's top player in 1984.

Apart from local championships, largely dominated by Ahli during the past 15 years, he helped his team to win the African Cup-Winners' Cup three times and the African Champions' Trophy twice.

Khatib, elected last week as a member of the 10-man board running the Ahli Sports Club, announced his retirement a year ago and has not played in any matches this year-but Friday's festival officially ended his career.

Samir said, Mahboub Gom'a, Adel Abbas and El Dekhil from Kuwait and Maged Abdullah, Saleh Na'ama and Amin Dabo from Saudi Arabia took part in the festival.

Cincinnati and Chicago advance

CINCINNATI, Jan 1. (Reuters) The Cincinnati Bengals, behind a relentless rushing attack spearheaded by Leroy Woods, beat the Seattle Seahawks 21-13 yesterday to earn the right to host next week's American Football Conference (AFC) final.

Woods, a powerful first-year back, gained 126 yards on 23 carries and performed his patented touchdown dance after scoring from one yard out. His backfield mate Stanley Wilson reached the end zone twice on three-yard bursts as Cincinnati ran off to a 21-0 halftime lead.

The rejuvenated Bengals, who finished last in the Central Division after winning just four games last season, will host the winner of today's AFC playoff between the Buffalo Bills and the Houston Oilers.

The Chicago Bears, 20-12 winners over the Philadelphia Eagles in a game played in dense fog, will

host the survivor of today's San Francisco 49ers-Minnesota Vikings game in next week's National Football Conference (NFC) final.

Winners of the conference finals advance to the Super Bowl in Miami on Jan 22.

After the Bengals had completely dominated the first half, Seattle struggled through the third quarter but mounted a comeback in the final 15 minutes.

Quarterback Dave Krieg, who completed 24 of 50 passes for 297 yards, came alive using massive fullback John Williams, who pulled down 11 passes for 137 yards, as his main target.

A turnover helped Seattle to their first touchdown three minutes, 20 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Cincinnati quarterback Boomer fumbled and Seattle nose tackle Joe Nash recovered

at the Cincinnati 32. Krieg got the Seahawks on the scoreboard with a seven-yard toss to Williams.

On Seattle's next possession Krieg threw passes to Paul Skansi, Ray Butler and Williams before he plunged in from the one himself with about six minutes left to make it 21-13.

But Norm Johnson, who had not missed an extra point in 40 tries all season, kicked it wide of the right upright leaving Seattle needing two more scores to catch the Bengals.

The eight-point margin effectively stopped Seattle from having any real chance as they desperately tried to move the ball up the field.

Esianon, who had a quiet day completing 7 of 19 passes for 108 yards, said: "Stan Wilson and Woods plus the offensive line won the game for us. Our passing game, meaning myself, was certainly not on."

Woods was elated and did not anticipate a let down.

"The path to the Super Bowl is through Cincinnati," he said. "I'll dance in the end zone again next week in the AFC championship game."

Managed

In the NFC game, fog blown in off Lake Michigan swept over Soldier Field late in the second quarter and settled there the rest of the way as Chicago's 17-9 midway lead stood up as each team managed just one field goal in the final 30 minutes.

Philadelphia failed to score a touchdown against the tough Bears' defence despite moving the ball inside the Chicago 25-yard line 10 times. Penalties, dropped passes and three interceptions thwarted the Eagles, whose points came on four field goals by Luis Zendejas.

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Vera wins round-the-houses race

SAO PAULO, Jan 1. (Reuters) Ecuador's Rolando Vera clinched his third consecutive victory in the 64th Sao Silvestre round-the-houses race here on New Year's Eve.

The diminutive Vera, only 1.59 metres tall and weighing 51 kg, fended off Mexico's Dionisio Ceron early in the 12.6 km (eight mile) race. He finished 21 seconds ahead of Ceron who also placed second in the race last year.

The 23-year-old ran a smooth race through the skyscraper-lined streets of downtown Sao

Paulo, finishing in 36 minutes 25 seconds.

In the women's section, Aurora Cunha of Portugal won an easy first in 42 minutes and 12 seconds which brought her to the finish line more than one minute ahead of Britain's Wendy Sly.

Cunha, 29, last ran the Sao Silvestre in 1980 and placed seventh. She is an acclaimed road racer.

The Sao Silvestre is South America's oldest and most prestigious road race.

About 10,000 contestants, including many Brazilian

celebrities, took part. One politician ran in honour of Francisco Mendes, a leading ecologist who was murdered in Amazonia nine days ago.

Two top contenders, Kenyan runners Peter Koech and Boston marathon champion Ibrahim Hussein, were not among the first 10 to reach the finish line.

Began

Brazil had five men in the first 10 finishers.

For the first time in the race's history, men and women ran separately.

Soviet Union wants to join GP circuit

MOSCOW, Jan 1. (Reuters) The Soviet Union wants to enter Grand Prix motor racing and intends applying to stage a Formula One event, the official Tass news agency said on Friday.

Tass said the Soviet Motor Sport Federation had voted unanimously in favour of competing on the world racing circuit and would also seek the right to stage one of the Grands Prix.

The news agency did not say when the decision was taken but quoted the federation's chairman, Vladimir Kononov, as saying that one or two Soviet drivers could be trained to take part.

Boost

It said Kononov suggested that a leg of the championship be held in the Soviet Union to boost the sport's popularity.

Soviet manufacturers, he said, could design a suitable car.

Circuits suitable for Formula One were currently being designed or under construction in a number of cities - Moscow, Leningrad, the Estonian capital of Tallinn, Yaroslavl, North of Moscow, Togliatti on the Volga and Zaporozhye in the Ukraine.

Oklahoma rout Wyoming

SAN DIEGO, Jan 1. (AP) Barry Sanders, in a display of the dazzling form that earned him college football's Heisman Trophy, scored five touchdowns Friday night as Oklahoma State routed Wyoming 62-14 in the Holiday Bowl.

Sanders' fifth touchdown, a 10-yard run, capped a 28-point third quarter for Oklahoma State, ranked No 12 in college football.

He rushed for 222 yards, just 3 yards shy of Craig James' record of 225, set in the 1980 Holiday Bowl.

Although the Heisman winner did not play in the final quarter, he set Holiday Bowl records for touchdowns (5), carries (29), and longest run from scrimmage (67 yards).

Oklahoma State set a new Holiday Bowl record for points, surpassing Ohio State's total in a 47-17 win over Brigham Young in 1982.

Oklahoma State finished at 10-2 while Wyoming fell to 11-2. The rout was a departure from past Holiday Bowls, nine of which have been decided by 7 points or less.

North Carolina defeat Iowa

ATLANTA, Jan 1. (AP) A steady rain and soggy field turned the 21st Peach Bowl into a game of mistakes. Fortunately for North Carolina State, Iowa made its errors first.

Tyrone Jackson ran for a pair of touchdowns as North Carolina State erupted for three quick second-period scores to take a 28-3 halftime lead, then held off the Hawkeyes 28-23 yesterday despite a game-record 428-yard passing performance by Iowa quarterback Chuck Hartlieb.

Budd hopes to resurrect career as British athlete



Id (right): wants to run for Britain again

LONDON, Jan 1. (Reuters) Zola Budd still harbours hope of resurrecting her international career as a British athlete nearly eight months after leaving her adopted nation to return home to South Africa.

The former world cross-country champion turned her back on Britain in May after the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) demanded she be banned for a year following her appearance at an athletics meeting in South Africa.

Return But in a television interview shown here yesterday, Budd said she still hoped to return to live in Britain, wanted to compete internationally again - and admitted she had made mistakes in the past.

Budd said she realised that if she did return to Britain, she would need to conduct her life "in a more professional way" than before.

"I'd like to run internationally again," she said. "That's my

main ambition. That's what I really want to do. I'll never be able to grow old contentedly if I do not fulfil my potential."

"The one thing that has kept me from training in South Africa is that I know what competing in South Africa is like and what racing internationally is like," she said.

The 22-year-old, now engaged to South African businessman Mike Pietersen, added: "I have made mistakes in the past."

Budd said one of her biggest was to spend too much time in South Africa after being granted a British passport in April 1984 which enabled her to run in the Los Angeles Olympics.

"I had a South African coach then and my family were here. That was the biggest reason why I spent so much time here."

"When my athletics collapsed I had nothing to fall back on. My family and many friends were here. That is why I came back," she said from her South African home.

"I am more committed to having a normal life in Britain," she added. "My mother would be upset if I return to Britain. But my fiancé understands and will support me in that. I have made a lot of friends in Britain. I can still count on their support."

But a return to international athletics by Budd would be certain to attract opposition.

Forced

While running in Britain was the target of numerous protests and was forced to withdraw from this year's World Cross-country Championships after threats of boycott by black African nations who see her as representing apartheid.

But Budd said in the interview: "I will never denounce apartheid. I am not prepared to say that Zola Budd is against apartheid or the South African government."

"I have strong views about South African politics but still don't think I need to make a public statement."



Two unidentified competitors soar over the mountain scenery of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany, during Saturday's practice session for the Four Hills ski jumping tournament. (Reuters wirephoto)

Illusion named provisional winner

HOBERT, Australia, Jan 1. (Reuters) The 34-foot Melbourne yacht Illusion, launched only three months ago, was declared provisional handicap winner of the Sydney-to-Hobart race yesterday.

The new boat, built in the latest exotic laminates, crossed the line with its red-and-white spinnaker flying after sailing the 630 nautical miles from Sydney in five days three hours 12 minutes, the organisers said.

Illusion, owned by Yugoslavian-born Gino Knezic and skippered by former world quarter-ton champion Ross Lyod, crossed

the line one hour eight minutes ahead of its nearest rival for corrected-time honours.

Southern Cross, a 40-footer owned and skippered by Sydney man Bill Gilbert, was provisionally placed second with veteran Syd Fisher's maxi-yacht Ragamuffin, which took line honours on Friday, third.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local football

THE 6th annual Youth Recreation Centre football tournament is scheduled to start on Jan 27. The last date for entries is Jan 19 and the draws will be held on Jan 20. Only teams affiliated to the Kuwait Indian Football Federation can take part in the tournament. For further information contact Lawrence (4832409), Eric (3262800) or Patrick (4712303).

7-a-side event

A 7-a-side football tournament, being organised by Rising Stars Boys, will be held at the Sour grounds on Jan 20. For further information contact Lawrence (4832409), Patrick (4712303) or Eric (3262800).

Third Waugh

LONDON, Jan 1, (Reuters): A third Waugh cricketer is setting out to follow his twin brothers Steve and Mark into the Australian side. Nineteen-year-old Dean Waugh has signed to play in the Bolton League in the coming English season, just as his older brothers did before him.

55m hurdles

WEST POINT, New York, Jan 1, (AP): Candy Young, a two-time Athletics Congress record holder, won the 55-metre hurdles in 7.84 seconds yesterday in the Metropolitan Athletics Congress New Year's Track Classic at the US Military Academy.

Soviet player

LONDON, Jan 1, (UPI): Soviet international defender Sergei Baltacha, 30, should arrive in time to make his debut for English Second Division soccer club Ipswich in an FA Cup third round match against Nottingham Forest Jan 7, club sources said on Friday.

John Cornwell

LONDON, Jan 1, (UPI): Newcastle, which has signed fullbacks Kenny Sansom and Ray Ranson in recent weeks, Friday transferred defender John Cornwell to Second Division club Swindon for \$65,000 (\$117,000).

French cyclist

LA PLAGNE, France, Jan 1, (UPI): French cyclist Charly Mottet, winner of the 1988 Grand Prix des Nations and the Tour of Lombardy, has signed with the team RMO, where he will be the undisputed leader of the pack.

Norwegian midfielder

ELCHE, Spain, Jan 1, (UPI): First Division soccer side Elche has signed Norwegian international midfielder Jan Berg to a 2-1/2 year contract, club officials said Friday. "Berg will begin training next week and we hope to have him in the lineup as soon as possible," an Elche spokesman said.

Military soccer

BAGHDAD, Jan 1, (Reuters): The national military soccer teams of Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) drew 1-1 on Friday in a qualifying match for the finals of the World Military Soccer Cup.

Dusty Hare

NUNEATON, England, Jan 1, (Reuters): Former England rugby union fullback Dusty Hare celebrated being named in the Queen's New Year's Honours List by hoisting his world record points total past 7,000 yesterday. Needing 15 points to reach the target, Hare scored 16 as he helped Leicester to a 39-13 win over Nuneaton.

GUNNERS SINK VILLA TO TAKE TOP SPOT AGAIN

United storm back to rout Liverpool

LONDON, Jan 1, (Reuters): Manchester United stormed from behind to shatter English League soccer champions Liverpool 3-1 today.

In a pulsating second half which saw four goals in seven minutes United brought a new year message to their faithful fans that the title is not beyond their grasp.

The victory lifted them five places to sixth position, just one point and one place behind Liverpool.

United, playing in front of a 45,000 crowd, had the better of a goalless first half, but fell behind to a 70th minute goal by England winger John Barnes.

They hit back within a minute, Brian McClair twisting back and scoring with a fine volley from 10 metres, then went ahead four minutes later through Mark Hughes.

Fire

The Welsh international shrugged off a suspicion of hand ball to fire diagonally home past Mike Hooper.

Midfielder Russell Beardsmore completed the goal spree in the 77th minute after a cross from the left evaded the faltering Liverpool rearguard.

United manager Alex Ferguson said: "They were marvellous in every department. They won all the battles."

United have not won the League title since 1967. Today's victory puts them 10 points behind leaders Arsenal and second placed Norwich with exactly half the season left.

Yesterday Arsenal, fired by early strikes from in-form marksman Alan Smith and England

midfielder David Rocastle, went back to the top of the English First Division with a 3-0 win at Aston Villa yesterday.

The London club, who headed the table for 24 hours earlier this week, recaptured the lead on goal difference after overnight pacemakers Norwich were held to a 0-0 draw by Middlesbrough.

Leading First Division scorer Smith gave Gunners the perfect start when he headed home a looping cross from midfielder Michael Thomas in the second minute. It was Smith's 14th League goal of the season.

Rocastle swooped on a weak clearance from goalkeeper Nigel Spink to drive home Arsenal's second goal from the edge of the penalty area after 23 minutes and Perry Groves sealed victory with a late goal.

Millwall, having lost four of their last five games, bounced back with a 1-0 success at Derby which lifted them into third place on goals scored. They are seven points behind Arsenal and Norwich.

Norwich, in quest of their first-ever Division One title, produced a disappointing display overall against a Middlesbrough side with the worst away record in the division.

Although Norwich marginally had the better of the first half, it was Middlesbrough who dominated after the interval as strikers Bernie Slaven and Peter Davenport tormented the home defence. Yet although they carved out plenty of chances they lacked the finishing touch.

Teddy Sheringham, who has formed a telling partnership with fellow striker Tony Cascarino in



Hughes scored United's second goal

Millwall's debut season in the First Division, struck the winner at Derby.

Sheringham broke the deadlock by beating England goalkeeper Peter Shilton in the 77th minute — a goal which

brought his joint League haul with Cascarino to 18.

London club Millwall and Everton are level on 30 points and have the same goal difference, leaving Everton in fourth place by virtue of having

scored fewer goals.

Kevin Sheedy thrust Everton ahead of Coventry in the ninth minute but Gary Bannister equalised midway through the first half. Sheedy restored his side's advantage just before the break and Paul Bracewell wrapped up victory with a second-half goal.

Tottenham's multi-million dollar side, bottom of the 20-team division earlier in the season, continued their revival with a 2-0 home win against Newcastle to improve one place to tenth.

Striker Paul Walsh put Tottenham in front after 21 minutes with his first goal for three months and England forward Chris Waddle struck the second nine minutes later.

FA Cup holders Wimbledon, whose rugged style of play using the long ball was criticised by Tottenham and ex-Barcelona team chief Terry Venables in a British newspaper this week, responded by trouncing Luton 4-0.

Wimbledon, showing they are effective even if they may not be pretty, took charge with first-half goals from midfielder Vinny Jones and striker Terry Gibson. Defender John Scales collected the third minute after halftime and striker John Fashanu completed the rout.

Queen's Park Rangers also enjoyed a goal spree, topping Southampton 4-1 after Mark Falco scored twice in the last three minutes.

Results

English Division One	Goals
Aston Villa 0	Arundel 3
Charlton 0	West Ham 1
Derby 1	Millwall 1

English Division Two	Goals
Exeter 1	Cardiff 1
Sheff Wed 0	Nottingham 3
Southampton 2	QPR 0
Tottenham 4	Luton 0
Wimbledon 2	Manchester 1

English Division Three	Goals
Brighton 1	Sheff Wed 0
Cheltenham 1	Walsley 0
Leeds 1	Sheff Wed 0
Leicester 2	Sheff Wed 0
Sheff Wed 2	Sheff Wed 0
Sheff Wed 2	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Four	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Five	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Six	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Seven	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Eight	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Nine	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Ten	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Eleven	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twelve	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Fourteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Fifteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Sixteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Seventeen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Eighteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Nineteen	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-One	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Two	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Three	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Four	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Five	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Six	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Seven	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Eight	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Twenty-Nine	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-One	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Two	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Three	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Four	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Five	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Six	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Seven	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Eight	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Thirty-Nine	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

English Division Forty	Goals
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0
Stoke 1	Sheff Wed 0

Inter blast Lecce to extend lead

ROME, Jan 1, (Reuters): Three second-half goals in 10 minutes gave Internazionale Milan victory over lowly Lecce yesterday and helped to stretch their lead at the top of the Italian First Division.

Inter, now three points ahead of Napoli who went down 1-0 at Roma, spent much of the first half in defence but changed tactics after the break, pushing West German midfielder Andreas Brehme up front.

Brehme, playing his first match since twisting a knee against Bayern Munich four weeks ago, sparked in attack, setting up the first goal with a fine cross to Argentina's Ramon Diaz in the 72nd minute and scoring himself with a magnificent left foot shot from 22 metres in the 80th.

Two minutes later the West German initiated the third goal, lobbing a free kick into the area which was put expertly away by Nicola Berli.